

FALL PROTECTION - IT'S A SNAP!

Region VII

Vol. 1, Issue 1

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Region VII (Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) from October 1994 through - September 1997, 46 percent of the fatal and catastrophic incidents occurred in the construction industry; 36 percent of those involved a fall.

To make a positive impact on these statistics, OSHA established a region-wide program aimed at reducing injuries and deaths resulting from falls in the construction industry.

Area Offices have conducted extensive outreach to encourage voluntary compliance by employers and employees, and to increase community awareness of fall hazards. The information campaign has included the distribution of employer kits, training guides, pamphlets, employee pocket guides, and posters.

The month of May has been designated as "Fall Safety Month." Planned inspections will be conducted by local offices during this month to determine whether this outreach approach is effective in achieving voluntary compliance.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Governors from the States of Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska have signed proclamations declaring May as "Fall Safety Month." ". . . during the month of May, a special focus will be observed on fall protection to address fatal accidents . . . and urge all citizens to take due note of the observance."

FALLS PUBLICATIONS MAKE BEST SELLERS LIST!

As of April, the demand for copies of our publications (employee guide, employer kit, training guide, public pamphlet, and poster) has been overwhelming. In addition to the 8,500 copies of the employee pocket guide OSHA has distributed, we are aware of employers, labor organizations, and other stakeholders reprinting over 7,000 additional employee pocket guides. OSHA has also printed for distribution 2,500 employer kits, 180 trainer guides, 5,400 public pamphlets, and 2,000 posters.

EMPLOYEE POCKET GUIDES

We have received inquiries as to the availability of the Employee Pocket Guide being translated into Spanish. We need the Spanish translation for some of the construction terminology. Anyone willing to assist us with this translation project (labor, industry, etc.) please contact Dee Cantu at (816) 426-5230, ext. 226, or Peggy Taylor via e-mail at taylor-peggy@dol.gov.

FALL POSTER AVAILABLE

We have a **free**, laminated poster (suitable for posting at construction sites) available upon request. The poster, "206* Reasons for Fall Protection (It's a Snap!)" may be obtained by contacting the OSHA Area Offices in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska or the OSHA Regional Office.

PROGRAM MEASUREMENTS

In addition to tracking traditional OSHA compliance measures, we will be collecting anecdotal information about the program. Please let us know if you have any work-related safety and health success stories that you are willing to share in future issues of this newsletter. We encourage you to send your anecdotal information to one of the OSHA

Region VII offices listed below. The following are examples of the types of information we are interested in:

- (1) Any increase in the number of Comprehensive Safety and Health Programs in the Region VII construction industry.
- (2) Any improved quality of existing Safety and Health Programs in the Region VII construction industry by adopting voluntary safety and health guidelines.
- (3) Any increased number of employees/employers trained to recognize and avoid fall hazards in the Region VII construction industry.
- (4) Any reduced numbers of Workers' compensation claims and associated costs for Region VII construction employers.
- (5) Any reduced Employer Modification Rate (EMR) for targeted companies.
- (6) Any "near miss" incidents in the Region VII construction industry, for example, any life saved due to proper use of personal fall arrest/restraint system.

REGION VII OFFICES

KANSAS

301 N. Main, 300 Epic Center
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 269-6644; fax: (316) 269-6185
Toll-free: 1-(800) 362-2896 (Kansas only)

MISSOURI (WESTERN)

6200 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64120
(816) 483-9531; fax: (816) 483-5167
Toll-free: 1-(800) 892-2674 (Missouri only)

MISSOURI (EASTERN)

911 Washington Avenue, Room 420
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 425-4249; fax: (314) 425-4289
Toll-free: 1-(800) 392-7743 (Missouri only)

NEBRASKA

Overland - Wolf Building, Room 100
6910 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68106
(402) 221-3182; fax: (402) 221-3188
Toll-free: 1-(800) 642-8963 (Nebraska only)

REGIONAL OFFICE

1100 Main Street, Suite 800
Kansas City, MO 64105
(816) 426-5861; fax: (816) 426-2750

GET ON THE E-MAIL LIST!

This newsletter is published in the OSHA Regional Office at 1100 Main Street, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, (816) 426-5861.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and "*Fatal Facts for Construction Falls*" (not yet published) via e-mail, contact Peggy Taylor at taylor-peggy@dol.gov. If you do not have access to E-mail, please return the following:

OSHA Region 7 Falls Newsletter & Fatal Facts for Construction Mailing List
Name: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____ _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____ _____
Return to: USDOL/OSHA Attn: Peggy Taylor 1100 Main Street, Suite 800 Kansas City, MO 64105