

Construction News Sense



HAS CONSTRUCTION WORKER SAFETY IMPROVED?

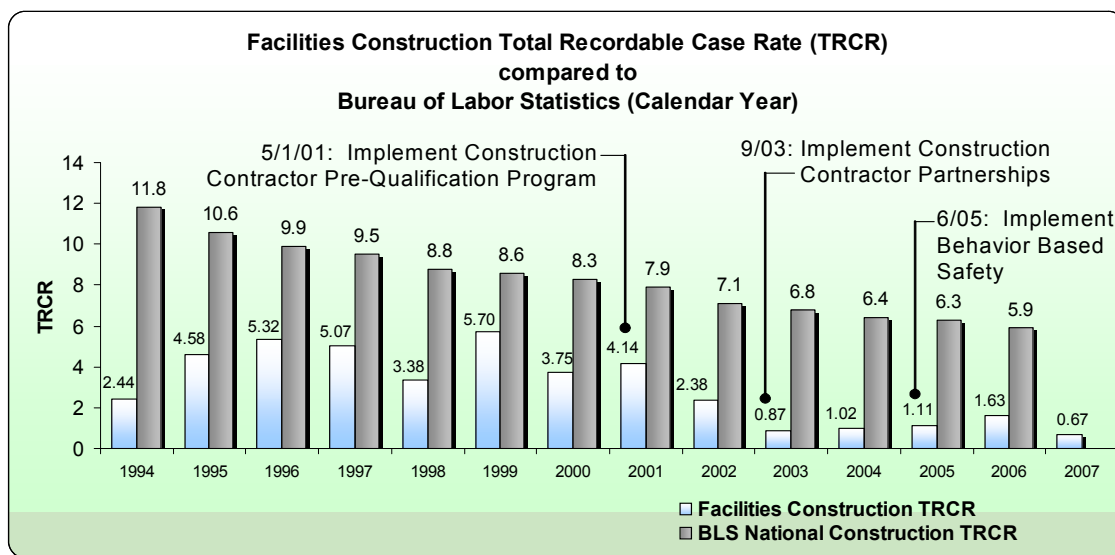
Over the past six years, Facilities has implemented multiple initiatives to improve construction worker safety. In May 2001, Facilities and Procurement jointly implemented the Construction Contractor Pre-Qualification Process that identified minimum required criteria for a contractor to become pre-qualified and added to the construction bid list for projects (excluding Line Item work). The Quarterly Construction Safety Seminars were introduced in December 2002 to provide a forum for communicating lessons learned and other safety-related information designed to keep construction workers safe on the job site. In an effort to improve construction cost and schedule that would be mutually beneficial to both SNL and the construction companies, 16 Construction Partnership contracts were awarded in September 2003 for general construction, electrical and mechanical work. In June 2005, Facilities implemented be-

havior based safety to focus on behaviors that can prevent injuries to the workers on the job site. In addition to these initiatives, the ES&H 01065 Specification includes requirements that are specific to the Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico (SNL/NM) site, and the safety oversight provided by the construction observers, project managers, construction managers, and ES&H staff exceed what is typically provided on the average construction project performed elsewhere in Albuquerque. Have all these initiatives, requirements, and oversight made a difference in improving safety for Facilities construction workers at the SNL/NM site?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data for workplace injuries and illnesses in 2006 was just released on October 16, 2007 and the total recordable case rate (TRCR) for the national construction industry fell once again from

6.3 in 2005 to 5.9 in 2006. The TRCR for the national construction industry has steadily decreased each year as the chart below shows. While the TRCR for Facilities construction contractors does not show the same decline, overall the TRCR for Facilities construction has consistently been well below the national average. Look at your company – do you think your workers are safer than they were six years ago? Are they safer when they work at the SNL/NM site compared to elsewhere in Albuquerque? Preventing injuries to the workers is the ultimate goal – it's good for the worker and it's good for business.

Nita Estes, , Org. 04841
Quality, Information & Communication



*Through September 2007 (Partial Hours)

When in Doubt — Report It

Despite all of our best efforts, sometimes events occur on the jobsite that may have an adverse impact on workers, the public or the environment, or cause unplanned disruptions of normal operations. When you become aware of a problem, report it. This leads to the questions - Who do I report it to? Who do I call first? What if it is an emergency? It seems minor – do I really need to report it? What if it happens after hours? Here are some answers.

SNL is required to provide early notification to the Department of Energy (DOE) if an event has the potential to become an occurrence. SNL in turn requires construction contractors to notify SNL when a problem occurs at a construction site so that the appropriate notifications can be made to DOE as required. Timely notification is important. Whether an event meets any external reporting criteria can be determined later.

Examples of events requiring notification include, but are not limited to the following:

- Natural gas odor
- Personnel injury

- Personnel exposure (could include asbestos, chemical, radiation, etc.)
- Release to the environment (e.g. diesel fuel, refrigerant, oil)
- Unplanned impact to utilities
- Actuation of alarms
- Failure to follow hazardous energy control
- Disturbance of unknown or mislocated hazardous energy sources
- Discovery of suspect/counterfeit items or material
- Violation of confined space
- Unauthorized penetrations or excavations
- Near miss of a serious injury, environmental release, or exposure
- Any unplanned fire or explosion

Notification during Standard Hours:

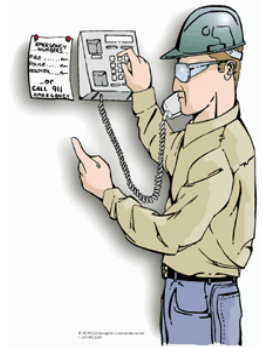
- If the event is an emergency, your first response should be to call either 911 or 844-0911 to summon help.
- Notify the Construction Observer, Sandia Delegated Representative, or Project Manager. An email or voicemail is not adequate notification – make sure you talk to someone.

Notification during Nonstandard Hours:

- If the event is an emergency, your first response should be to call either 911 or 844-0911 to summon help.
- Attempt to contact the Construction Observer, Sandia Delegated Representative, or Project Manager. If you cannot talk to someone, call the SNL Non-Emergency Hotline at 311 or 844-0311. State whether you are calling in an event and/or requesting non-emergency response. Follow up with someone from SNL the next day as early as possible.

Notify your management per your Company's policy. Once SNL is notified, SNL personnel will make the proper notification to the appropriate persons or agencies. Whenever you become aware of a problem, report it – when in doubt, report it.

Robert Maranville, Org. 04841
ES&H Specialist



Watch Out!



There have been several near misses between bicyclists and vehicles near the Eubank gate since the opening of IPOC. Until the Contractor gate located south of the Eubank gate is set up for pedestrians and bicyclists, there will be more chances for accidents to occur. Be careful when you round the corner or turn at the traffic light/turning lane just outside the gate, or when you merge into traffic as you leave IPOC as it isn't always easy to see bicyclists.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company, for the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000