



SAFETY

Nebraska Building Chapter

AGC Safety Initiative E-News September 23, 2020

OUR Safety MISSION: Help each other enforce safety rules to ensure that every person on construction site goes home safe and healthy at end of the workday.

Supplement your safety program with [AGC Nebraska Building Chapter Safety Resources](#). The site offers on-demand, online or on-site training opportunities on a variety of topics; services; regulations and news within our industry. Share this link with team members!

Calendar of Events – [Learn more](#)

AGC Project Manager Development Program | Every Tuesday and Thursday October 6--November 5, 2020
The **Nebraska Building Chapter AGC** has partnered with the **Austin AGC** and the Austin office of **Procore** to host the NEW 2nd edition of AGC's Project Manager Development Program (PMDP). Online via Zoom video conferencing. Cost: \$1,295 for AGC Members or \$1695 for Non-Members. Fee includes five textbooks. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

POSTPONED: GC & SC Roundtable: Communicating in a Crisis | Wednesday, September 30, 2020
We've postponed this event; watch our updates for the new date!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Golf Outing! We appreciate you! [Learn more](#) **THANK YOU** to our sponsors! [Learn more](#)

[Suicide prevention in construction more important than ever](#)

The COVID-19 crisis has the potential to exacerbate anxiety, depression and other mental health issues among construction workers, according to an industry expert. In any industry, suicide prevention and education requires a variety of resources, as well as strong leadership from management, safety professionals and human resources. The first thing construction employers should do to alleviate stress on workers — especially right now — is to be compassionate.

How has the added stress of the COVID-19 crisis added to contractors' already high risk of suicide?

COVID-19 has increased stressors for everyone, but this has been especially detrimental for people already at risk, which includes many people who work in construction. And while we know an [underlying mental illness is the No. 1 risk for suicide](#), COVID-19 has the potential to exacerbate existing anxiety, depression or other mental health issues. Statistically, construction employees are at a higher risk because men, who make up 91% of the construction workforce, are more likely to die by suicide. The construction industry also employs a large population of veterans who are at a 1.5 times greater risk for suicide compared to nonveterans, according to the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#). The average age of our workforce also trends older, which adds to a combination of factors, including complications related to COVID-19 exposure. That said, there is no doubt that COVID-19 has been extremely stressful for everyone. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. workforce had a routine and then in a moment, everything stopped, resulting in health fears and economic havoc. For months now, families have been dealing with a health crisis with many unknowns, employment instability, financial concerns, gaps in childcare and insulation, just to name a few. In addition, a new group of the U.S. workforce was suddenly considered front line, which in many cases included construction workers. All of those factors have the potential to compound and increase the risk of suicide. [Read the full article](#)

Cleaning vs. disinfecting/sanitizing: What's the difference?

- **Cleaning**
 - Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces. It doesn't kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- **Disinfecting/sanitizing**
 - Disinfecting/sanitizing refers to using chemicals (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency-registered disinfectants) to kill germs on surfaces. This process doesn't necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
- **Sterilization**
 - Sterilization describes a process of destroying or eliminating all forms of microbial life and is carried out in health care facilities by physical or chemical methods.

[Read the full article](#)

Safety Initiative Goals:

As an AGC Nebraska Building Chapter member, are you participating with:

- 100% of all AGC members and other contractors on AGC jobsites enforcing OSHA standards as they apply to falls, electrical safety and possible another topic.
- 100% of all AGC members will have set their own company goals to improve safety in their firm and have a way to measure progress towards the goal.
- 100% of all AGC members will encourage and support all contractors on their jobsites to set their own company goals for improving safety.

Your safe work habits have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for modeling workplace safety for everyone!