AGC Safety Initiative E-News
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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.

Calendar of Events – Learn more

COVID-19 Resources Update Updated information with quick references available.

Mental health & suicide prevention in construction - How to build wellness programs with Impact

The construction industry is raising awareness and encouraging open discussion about mental health and substance abuse to reduce suicide in the workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic has added stress, anxiety, and fear to contractors' already high risk of suicide. We can all agree this is a scary subject and we need to address the public health crisis in our country. But how do we heal our workforce? Please use the following resources to help you spot warning signs, start the conversation, and provide support to those who need it – which can save lives. It takes construction professionals at all levels working together and with their risk partners to build a culture of caring and prevention. Click HERE for further information and to watch a session on this topic recorded as part of AGC's 2021 Construction Risk Management Conference.

Spring Clean your Digital Files – it could help prevent organizational security risks.

You may think of digital spring cleaning as simply sorting your files—and that's definitely part of it. However, just as you might put junk mail with your personal information through a shredder, so too should you consider the security footprint left by your digital files. Digital spring cleaning goes beyond making things easier to find. It's also a way to declutter, organize, and establish best practices to help safeguard your business and protect member data. By ensuring all workers have a basic education on the vulnerabilities their organization faces, employees are better equipped to collectively do their part.

Some tips on digital cleanliness:

Don't ignore updates. Software is updated for a reason, and while you may not want to deal with a message from Windows or MacOS telling you to upgrade, you need to. One of the first things users should be doing is updating their software. Ensure that software update prompts don't go ignored or postponed. Having the most current security software, web browsers, and operating systems are some of the easiest ways to protect data.

Back up multiple copies of your data. Store data in multiple places and in multiple formats, following what he calls the 3-2-1 rule: Three backup copies, two different media types, one offline and in a separate location. Beyond security concerns, you can also consider the longevity. Store data based on its lifecycle—one cloud service for older data and another for newer information.

Ditch software and hardware you aren't using. With apps falling out of date if they aren't being used, it's imperative to not let unused apps sit on your computer for too long. If you don't use them, they don't get updated, leaving an unsecured piece of software that a cybercriminal could potentially exploit. Old tablets, hard drives, and smartphones also pose a risk, as they're not receiving updates to their operating systems, creating an unprotected attack surface.

Update passwords and shut down old accounts. If you aren't reading a newsletter, unsubscribe; if you aren't using an account, shut it down. Open, abandoned accounts are a security risk. And be sure to periodically update your passwords, making them unique and storing them with a password manager.

Think about how you mix business with pleasure. When you're working remotely, it can be easy to slip into using the same computer for everything, rather than keeping work separate from home life. This was a major problem at the height of the COVID crisis, especially because organizations prioritized accessibility over cybersecurity when making the transition between traditional offices and a home office/remote access environment. Keep work machines on separate wireless networks for personal reasons, setting up a VPN, and not using a work laptop for personal tasks.

Remove additional clutter. Security is one aspect of a proper spring cleaning; ease of use is another. Make both easier by sorting your document folders and going through your desktop icons. *How-To Geek* says that if your desktop has more than 40 items on it, or your documents folder has more than 60 folders within it, you might need a cleanup. Additionally, after you tidy up, you may want to be more methodical about your file storage. The Medium blog *The Startup* offers an approach to maximizing efficiency.

Organizationally, set strong policies. With IT people unable to check individual machines or networks, it matters more than ever that employees are well-trained from a security standpoint. Workers should understand how crucial the simplest of protection measures can be to deterring cyber incidents as well, e.g., multifactor authentication, file encryption, strong alphanumeric passwords, and password managers. It's important that businesses create a culture of education within the work environment that keeps cybersecurity top of mind as a means of reducing risk.

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.

We appreciate your dedication to high safety standards.