



**SAFETY**

Nebraska Building Chapter

## **AGC Safety Initiative E-News September 14, 2022**

**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](#)

**OSHA has extended its [revised National Emphasis Program on COVID-19](#) until further notice.**

### **GC & SC Fall Roundtable - Mental Wellness and Suicide Awareness and Prevention**

**Thursday, September 29, 2022 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Round the Bend Steakhouse, Conference Center, Ashland

Learn more [here](#)

The numbers are jolting - Construction workers commit suicide at three times the national average. More American construction workers die by suicide than from job site injuries or accidents. Construction has the second highest suicide rate of any industry. Learn to recognize the warning signs and how to get help for someone in crisis.

**Dan Dwyer** is the new Compliance Assistance Specialist with the Omaha Area Office of the U.S. Department of Labor. He will be attending our events on September 29 and is looking forward to meeting our industry! He'll be presenting at both sessions. Contact information: Omaha Area Office, 444 Regency Parkway Drive Ste 303, Omaha, NE 68114, (402) 553-0171 – Office, (531) 233-6449 – Fax and [Dwyer.Daniel@dol.gov](mailto:Dwyer.Daniel@dol.gov) Dan has a list serve; if interested in receiving, reach out to him directly. This is one of his latest shares:

#### **PROTECTING WORKERS FROM AGGRESSIVE PATIENTS:**

A news article was recently published out of Colorado that highlighted a case that went to court. The case had to do with an OSHA inspection that was conducted as a result of a workplace violence complaint. There isn't an OSHA standard that covers workplace violence, there is still a requirement for employers to provide a workplace that is free of hazards to include workplace violence.

Learn more: [Fed Judge Orders CO Psychiatric Facility to Protect Workers from Aggressive Patients - SUN News Report](#)

Additional information on workplace violence:

- [Workplace Violence - Overview | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)
- [Healthcare - Workplace Violence | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)

#### **What makes a return-to-work program effective?**

Management commitment, communication and the setting of clear expectations are common elements of successful return-to-work programs for injured employees, according to a new report from the National Council on Compensation Insurance. NCCI interviewed three employers – a health care system based in Colorado, a school district in Texas, and a construction and transportation infrastructure maintenance

company in Alaska – to learn about their experiences with their respective return-to-work program, along with opportunities and challenges each face. The report synthesizes the perspectives, along with those gathered from previous interviews with insurers, into these attributes of successful RTW programs:

- Management commitment needs to be foundational within the employer’s culture. Communication of this commitment builds trust between employees and management.
- Communication and setting clear expectations are key both before and after an injury occurs.
- Involved medical providers must understand occupational injuries and RTW programs.
- The employer having a single source of contact to coordinate the RTW program for the injured worker, insurer and medical providers is beneficial.
- The employer should create and maintain an inventory of light-duty or transitional tasks.

“The purpose of the workers’ compensation system is to provide a means of support for employees injured on the job, as well as for their families,” the report states. “Keeping injured workers on the job post-injury, in some meaningful capacity, retaining their dignity and pride, and ultimately returning them to full-duty purposeful work, is truly the ultimate success story.”

### **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.