



SAFETY

Nebraska Building Chapter

AGC Safety Initiative E-News September 9, 2020

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!

TODAY! General & Sub-Contractor Collaboration on Impact of COVID-19 | PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE - A Virtual Panel Roundtable | Wed., Sept. 9, 2020 | 10:00-11:00am

This townhall style webinar brings together SC, GC, and other industry folks to discuss perspective's on communication of COVID-19 safety and health protocols, best practices in policies/plans; what's most important now with tracing and cases on site; and long term implications and the impact on productivity.

Panelists Include:

- Jeremy Langer, Project Executive, Kiewit Building Group
- Chad Westphalen, Omaha Division President, The Waldinger Corporation
- Doug Fletcher, Owner, Fletcher Safety Consulting, Inc
- Tim Timmons, Communicable Disease Program Supervisor, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
- Chad Thies, President, Zelle Human Resource Solutions

No charge to attend; non-members welcome! Appropriate for all levels in your organizations!

Additional Information and register online at <https://www.agcnebuilders.com/events/event/2020/09/09/a-virtual-panel-roundtable/300693>

DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS HOSTED BY OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

GC & SC Roundtable: Communicating in a Crisis | Wednesday, September 30, 2020 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

PRESENTED BY: Anthony Huey, President, Reputation Management Associates. Thirty years of work destroyed in 30 seconds. This what can happen if your company or organization mismanages an accident, explosion, strike, or a multitude of other crisis situations. [Click here](#) for more information.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: This program is appropriate for **EVERYONE** including management, PMs, Superintendents, Communications and Safety Professionals.

NO CHARGE TO MEMBERS: Just let us know you are attending – [register here](#). **Non-members fee \$35** – register by Monday, September 28.

Calendar of Events – [Learn more](#)

[AGC Leads Sponsorship of Construction Safety Week: Sept. 14 - 18](#)

Every year during Construction Safety Week, construction companies reinforce and celebrate our shared commitment to safety with mass safety meetings, equipment demonstrations, job tours, appreciation barbecues, and more. Join us and bring Safety Week to life at your company by planning events on your projects and in your offices. Click [here](#) to access and download all of the tools and resources you'll need to get started on planning your activities, including tips, best practices and all of the Safety Week branded materials you'll need to support your events and communication. In addition, please complete this [form](#) to let AGC know if you would allow media to come and cover your safety week stand down event. Certificates of participation can also be obtained during and after safety week by completing this [form](#) (opens September 14, 2020).

[Three Key Reasons to Continue Construction Training Even Amid the Pandemic](#)

Historically, companies will do two things when times get tough: They will curtail their training departments and sales departments.

The world was not prepared for the coronavirus, and there is no denying companies are facing hard decisions. Some companies have been required to do reduction in workforce because projects have been delayed. Although halting training may be fiscally understandable, it's short-sighted and hurts your program and the construction industry as a whole in the long run. This is the time to really focus on projects that are going and ensure people are working at their maximum capacity. Proactive, successful companies have historically managed to maintain training through difficult times. It may not look the same and may be adapted, but progressive companies will not quit training. Why?

1. The skills shortage won't disappear.

Before COVID-19, the construction industry was already facing an estimated shortage of 1 million skilled workers by 2023. The Associated General Contractors of America found back in August of 2019 that [80% of contractors were having difficulty finding qualified craft professionals](#).

Training and retaining our workforce must remain a priority or we'll be facing an even more extreme shortage after the crisis. ManpowerGroup reports that skilled craft professionals and construction laborers remain in the [top 10 most difficult roles to fill](#). "If you stop your recruiting or apprenticeship programs, it's like turning off the faucet. A quality workforce program includes recruiting, training and retaining," said Katrina Kersch, NCCER Chief Operations Officer. "Stopping these activities stops the pipeline of people coming into your organizations that are getting trained, becoming experienced and becoming valuable, skilled craftsmen and women." Training remains a top priority for DP Electric; their founder and CEO, Dan Puente, shares, "The growth of our people is the growth of our company." Despite being in the midst of the pandemic, [DP Electrical has started an apprenticeship program](#) that launched July 27, 2020.

2. Training increases productivity.

Doing targeted, job site specific training helps get workers reengaged and increases productivity. Concerns about job security and the industry are prevalent across the workforce — training helps combat those feelings of apprehension. "It sends a powerful message to the individual that you're investing in them because they are part of the success of the organization," shares Kersch. "It's just intrinsically such a part of making your employees feel valuable. Continued training during this time also builds your sense of community in your workplace culture. The McKinsey Engineering, Construction and Building Materials Practice points out that ["balancing performance and health is critical"](#) at any point in time — and it's that much more important in these turbulent times."

3. It's strategic.

To be an employer of choice in construction is all about training and retaining your workforce. Although the industry is being impacted by the pandemic, it is more of a dip for construction compared to other harder hit industries like hospitality and leisure, retail and health services such as dentistry. Instead of 'turning off the electricity to save on electricity when times get tough', it is an opportunity to be more strategic. The most

progressive companies will explore how to leverage the downtimes by dynamically allocating talent. In addition, companies have typically already invested significantly in establishing workforce development programs to recruit. During times when companies are not bringing new people in, trying to maintain the employees that you may have already invested in with a year or two in training is tactically important. “It’s becoming clear that the world will be different as we move beyond the COVID-19 crisis to [the next normal](#).” In their article, “How Construction Can Emerge Stronger After Coronavirus”, the McKinsey Engineering, Construction and Building Materials Practice calls for five stages of action as companies plan their path forward: resolve, resilience, return, reimagination and reform. The industry has an opportunity to reimagine and reform the future while remaining resilient.

This momentary slump cannot affect the construction industry’s vision for the future. As an essential business, the world needs construction, from quickly building hospitals to donating personal protective equipment. We remain the industry that builds America

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.