A *Shotcrete* feature:

SAFETY SHOOTER

Construction Project Safety

by guest author Scott Strandridge

At times, safety on construction projects can be challenging. Therefore, it is important to have pretask meetings and proper training prior to starting a job. In construction today, with increased demands for increased production levels coupled with more aggressive schedules, safety is sometimes not given the attention it deserves.

The one item that should never be skimped on is safety. In today's construction projects (large and small), safety is not only important for the health and well-being of the workers, it is also cost effective. Some general contractors and construction managers on large-scale projects require an "Ex-Mod" of less than 1.00 to bid their projects. The "Ex-Mod" is a compilation of many factors that deal with safety within the company. What this really means is that you have a better chance of a successful bid on a large-scale project if you can demonstrate that you were consistently safe on previous job sites.

A good safety program begins with good attitude and awareness. We must have a good attitude toward accident prevention and consistent implementation of good safety practices. Having a good attitude and awareness toward safety can lead to a safe and prosperous career for workers in the construction industry. All contractors, companies, and crew members must have a workable safety plan or program in place. Everyone on the project must get involved in safety if we are to be successful and safe in the construction industry. Holding each person accountable is necessary to eliminate hazards and sloppy work practices.

Every company must strive to provide safe working conditions and adequate safety training to educate the employees and employers. The safety program must be presented with a positive attitude and all levels of employees must be involved. Each day should be started with a pretask meeting to discuss the planed work activities on the site for that day. This meeting is key to getting everyone on the same page. A detailed plan is developed for what needs to be achieved that day. The pretask meeting helps to identify all the details and may reveal potential hazards or issues before work commences. The information gathered at the pretask meeting helps the team learn and recognize potential safety issues before they become problems. Job-site conditions can change daily, and sometimes hourly, and the safety plan should recognize this.

An employee with a good attitude and proper safety training will know what preventative measures to take to meet personal safety goals and proper safety training as company goals. With the proper attitude and training, employees can return home to their families each day injury free and safe.

The company must reinforce a good attitude for a safe and healthy environment with constant training updates and support. With suitable safety training and support, the potential to maintain production levels and meet budget goals is improved. It is important to have at least an OSHA-10 training rating or perhaps an OSHA-30 training rating. Individuals should also be trained in first-aid and CPR to be ready for any situation that may arise in the field. Proper first-aid equipment must be readily available along with emergency telephone numbers.

To sum it all up, it takes the involvement of everyone affiliated with a construction project to make safety work on a job site. Get involved and get others involved and start working on a safety program for your construction site.

Job-site tailgate safety meeting with pretask use of sheets

Placing concrete in a congested area after safety practices were implemented

***Scott Strandridge** is a Structural Concrete Superintendent for Joseph J. Albanese, Inc., and specializes in commercial buildings, schools, and hospitals. Most of his projects are multi-level and a majority of his experience is in high-end residential, general bridge building, dams, box culverts, tunnels, and architectural concrete, with a heavy emphasis in structural concrete.*