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## Safety Classes Scheduled for Metro Construction Professionals

- Nationwide, 417,700 injured on construction jobs in 2002
- 30-hour, 10-hour construction safety courses offered by Metro

(July 2, 2004) Construction is one of the most hazardous industries in which to work.

Significant hazards include falls, excavation cave-ins, power tools, material handling, heavy equipment operations and crane rigging just to name a few.

Nationwide, in 2002, the latest year statistics are available, more than 417,700 workers were injured seriously enough to require medical treatment beyond first aid.

That equates to 7.1 injuries for every 200,000 hours worked. Of those 417,700 injuries, 226,800 were so serious that the worker could not return to their normal job for at least one day – a “days away” case rate of 3.8 per 200,000 work hours. By comparison, the national average for all private industry employment is 5.3 medical cases, of which 2.8 are “days away” cases per 200,000 work hours.

### Register Here!

To register for upcoming Construction Safety Training classes visit the OD&T website at <http://training> and click on the Schedule and Registration link.

The classes are listed in the drop-down menu under “Construction Project Management.” Sbragia may be contacted via email or at 922-7369.

PHOTOS: RALPH SBRAGIA



Graduates of the April 22 OSHA 30-hour class were, from left, Bharpur Takhar, John Jaramillo, Kathy Mack, Ed Schmutzler, Joe O'Donnell, Ted Lepe and Dan Estrada.

### 'Honing their hazard awareness'

In order to protect themselves and others from construction hazards, Metro employees who must be on construction sites have been honing their hazard awareness at Construction Safety Training classes provided by Metro safety professionals Stephen Nix and Ralph Sbragia, both of whom are certified by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and

authorized by U.S. OSHA as Construction Outreach Instructors.

Employees who are required to be on construction sites more than one day each week are completing the OSHA 30-hour Hazard Awareness and Correction Training Course. Meeting once a week for six hours, these employees dedicate five Thursdays or Fridays to improving their skills at recognizing construction hazards and knowing how they should be corrected by Metro Contractors.



Graduates of the May 14 OSHA 30-hour class were, from left, Bob Sechler, Bud Gandy, Kathy Sweet, Vince Ybarra, Bill Moore, Helen Lessick, Bruce Warrensford and Ivan Page.

The curriculum includes information required by OSHA and information selected by Nix and Sbragia that is particularly germane to Metro Construction activities.

In addition to employees who have construction related duties, Facilities Maintenance supervisors have shown an interest in attending the 30-hour course.

"Many of the tasks our facilities maintainers complete are similar to construction work" says Facilities Maintenance Manager Randolph Gordy. "It benefits our supervisors to periodically get a refresher regarding the regulatory safety requirements for these activities."



Graduates of the May 27 OSHA 30 Hour class were, from left, Tom Kefalas, Manuel Gurrola, Valerie Dean, John Doidge, Larry Lyon and Carl Ripaldi.

### Recognizing hazards on the job

Employees who are required to be on construction sites *one day a week or less* attend the OSHA 10-hour Hazards Awareness Course. This course is conducted in two five-hour sessions over two weeks. The curriculum centers on hazard recognition to sharpen the employees' ability to avoid

hazards and to work injury free.

For executive level staff who are not required to be on construction sites other for than occasional escorted visits, a 60- to 90-minute safety orientation is planned. This course will test their knowledge and bring them up to date on significant hazards to be aware of.

The current set of classes began in April. June 17 marked the completion of the 30-hour courses by the third group of participants. The second 10-hour class was completed June 24.

After a short break for the Independence Day holiday, a new series of classes has been scheduled. By the close of June, 25 employees had completed the 30-hour course and eight had completed the 10-hour course.

"As the construction manager, the Metro must manage its regulatory and civil liability for ensuring worker safety as just one part of overall project management," says Sbragia. "The better trained our staff is to recognize jobsite hazards and bring them to the contractor's attention, the more compliant we can expect the contractors to be with respect to the Contract Safety Requirements. The more trained eyes we have on the jobsite, the more likely we are to ensure contractor compliance and prevent a major injury. 'On time and under budget' doesn't mean a thing if someone loses their life getting the project built."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written by Ralph Sbragia, CSP, of Construction Project Management Safety.