



## SAFETY BULLETIN

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CONCRETE CONTRACTORS  
ENHANCING THE CAPABILITIES OF THOSE WHO BUILD WITH CONCRETE

### EMERGENCY RESCUE BASKETS

Emergency rescue baskets are a common piece of safety equipment that utilizes cranes to move materials, tools, and equipment. They are often referred to as rescue litter, stokes and/or man basket, or rescue platform. When on a tall building that utilizes a man hoist, stairs, and/or ladders, access and egress can present challenges to moving an injured worker. Using a basket is especially prudent if the person is unconscious, or, the injury so debilitating that the worker is not able to assist with transport. The crane and rescue basket can significantly reduce the time it takes to get someone on the ground and to medical attention.

#### Types and Construction:

It is important to differentiate the two types of rescue baskets. They are 1) a single person litter style, and 2) a basket that utilizes a platform with four sides and guardrails. While both have their advantages, selection should be based on the needs of the site, capabilities, storage space, operating procedures, and training requirements. Other factors to keep in mind are the weight capacity of the basket and the crane's reach and hoisting capacities.

#### Single Man Rescue Basket

Commonly referred to as a rescue litter or stokes basket, this device is typically constructed from stainless-steel, aluminum or titanium, with a wire mesh or high-density polyethylene molded shell to provide a comfortable surface when strapped in. These baskets utilize strong, nylon web belts or lashing that are connected to the frame of the basket and provide the means to secure the worker during hoisting. Most rescue baskets provide room to accommodate a back board in the event the injured worker needs to be immobilized. There are typically four attachment points for the four-way lifting slings or "bridle" to connect the basket to the hook on the crane. Most four-way bridles offer independently adjustable legs to allow the basket to be set at the best angle for comfort of the injured individual, and to allow the basket to maneuver around obstructions. Typical bridles are nylon, four-way, synthetic slings that come with most rescue baskets.

It is important that workers receive training to set up and use the basket and to inspect the slings. Synthetic straps degrade in sunlight, making the use of a bridle made from wire rope or Grades 80 or 100 chain a good option to reduce potential failure. Regardless of construction, the four-legged rescue

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### CONCRETE BURNS

Concrete contractors are exposed to countless safety hazards, one of which is wet concrete. Skin that comes into contact with wet concrete can result in a concrete burn. It is a common injury that can be avoided with proper protection, planning, and understanding of the hazards.

#### What Causes Concrete Burns?

Concrete itself doesn't "burn," as the material is cold to the touch. It is the chemicals and materials in concrete that create the hazard. When mixed with water, a chemical reaction takes place creating calcium hydroxide, a substance that when exposed to unprotected skin can result in a chemical burn. Hexavalent chromium, also present in concrete, is harmful to the skin as well.

#### How Does the Burn Take Place?

Wet concrete affects people differently, and a number of variables contribute to the severity of the reaction. Typical concrete burns tend to be on the extremities. Concrete workers' hands and feet are consistently exposed to wet concrete. Forearms, hands, wrists, knees, lower legs, and feet are most vulnerable. Time plays a significant role in the seriousness of the wound. Brief direct contact, properly washed, will typically have little, if any, adverse effect. As an individual continues to work with wet concrete on his or her skin, the greater the damage.

#### What Are the Effects of a Concrete Burn?

Concrete burns tend to worsen over time. They may start out as simple redness known as a non-allergic irritant contact dermatitis (ICD). Untreated, ICD leads to scabbing, blistering and pain. The site of irritation will gradually turn blue or purple, followed by skin deterioration and extreme pain. Open wounds or ulcerations can develop. In severe cases disfiguring scars, hospitalization or amputation have been the result.

Some individuals develop an allergic response to concrete over time. This is known as Allergic Contact Dermatitis (ACD). For these individuals, sensitization can result from a single or repeated exposures. Once an individual has become sensitized, very small exposure to wet concrete can trigger ACD.

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## DIRECTOR OF SAFETY SERVICES MESSAGE

### What's in the OSHA Pipeline? Joe Whiteman, director of safety services

I want to provide a brief update on OSHA activity that pertains to our industry. There are three items to highlight, as each of these may play a role in how we manage our safety programs and policies.

#### Rule to Update the Construction and Design of Powered Industrial Trucks (Forklifts) for the General and Construction Industries

This new rule will incorporate, by reference, the most applicable updated and relevant national consensus standards. Should it take effect, the rule will not likely put any burden on contractors, but will affect manufacturers. The focus would be around overhead guards and the overall design and construction of new equipment to cover the latest ANSI standards. The comment period for

this proposed rule is closed, though the Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC), of which ASCC is a member, has submitted comments.

### **Expansion to the Existing Emergency COVID-19 Rule for Healthcare**

OSHA has re-opened a limited comment period and informal public hearing on its COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard for Healthcare. While in the past the construction industry was excluded from this ETS, OSHA is looking to expand its scope to include construction activities in the healthcare setting. The new rule would apply to companies performing construction inside an active hospital and there may be considerations for construction activities for isolated areas of the hospital such as unoccupied wings or floors. The CISC has submitted comments and is participating in the informal public hearing.

### **Amendments to the Recordkeeping Rule**

While certain employers are already required to electronically submit injury and illness information to OSHA, new requirements will extend to organizations with 100 or more employees in certain high-hazard industries. Construction companies will now not only be required to submit their OSHA 300A form, but also the 300 and the 301 once a year and the data posted online. Organizations with 20 or more employees in certain high-hazard industries will continue to submit their OSHA 300A once a year. Organizations not in a designated high-hazard industry would no longer be required to submit recordkeeping information to OSHA if they have 250 employees or more. The comment period is currently open and the CISC does not intend on submitting.

As new information becomes available I will keep you updated. Should you have comments or questions, please contact me, Joseph Whiteman, ASCC director of safety services, at [jwhiteman@asconline.org](mailto:jwhiteman@asconline.org)



## **THE LATEST**

### ***National Safety Stand Down for Fall Prevention Jason Anglin, Christman Constructors***

Falls continue to be the leading cause of construction fatalities. Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for 2020, 351 out of the 1,008 construction fatalities reported were caused by falls. These deaths may have been avoided if the correct training, planning and resources had been in place and put into practice.

On May 2-6, 2022 OSHA is sponsoring a National Safety Stand Down Week to Prevent Falls in Construction. This is an annual event that began in 2012 when OSHA and the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) partnered to raise awareness of fall prevention on construction sites. This event, along with Safe and Sound Week (August 15-21) is an OSHA outreach to help workers and management raise awareness of construction safety.

During this week, OSHA and its state-run counterparts are asking us to work together to help raise awareness of fall hazards and the need for training. OSHA has dedicated a portion of their website to assist with stand-down activities. Go to <https://www.osha.gov/stop-falls-stand-down/events>.

Some ways you can participate include:

- Conduct additional tool box talks using topics provided by OSHA
- Sponsor an OSHA or state run program representative to speak at project sites
- Work with safety equipment vendors to speak about fall protection and demonstrate equipment
- Have company management speak at events to show commitment to worker safety
- Contact organizations such as the ASCC to help plan and promote your event

Each organization that conducts a stand-down can receive a Certificate of Participation from OSHA on the website shown above, by using the tab "Certificate of Participation" and providing information about the stand-down.

These types of events offer a unique opportunity for general contractors, specialty contractors,

company ownership and workers to collaborate for the improvement of safety. By continuing to bring attention to the dangers of falls we each help prevent needless loss and tragedy.



## WHAT'S WORKING

### ***Addressing Women's Needs in Construction***

***Kathi Dobson, safety director, Alberici***

It's no wonder that as the number of women in our industry increases, the focus on issues that affect women does the same. What is surprising is that many of the issues we are identifying in 2022 have been around since women first came into the workplace, and most are not just specific to women. A few of them are the work environment, sanitation, PPE, reproductive concerns and training.

Our work environment is not always set up for women to succeed. Some toxic behaviors – hazing or harassment, bullying or intimidation still exist, even with efforts to support diversity and inclusion. Even isolation – not offering a place at the break table, for instance, can be a form of harassment, and be psychologically intimidating. Years ago, it was expected that workers experience a certain degree of hazing. Practical jokes, perhaps, giving an apprentice a nickname, or having them look for imaginary tools were common. We now understand that these “games” are inappropriate and may have an adverse effect on the climate and culture of an organization. We need to be aware, however, that the safe work climate on a job or a remote location may not align with corporate expectations, so it is important for company executives to conduct site visits to evaluate climate and culture, address expectations regarding diversity, equity and inclusion, and listen and respond to complaints from women and men.

Finding PPE that fits and is functional is also a challenge for women. More and more manufacturers are designing PPE - not just in smaller men's sizes, but which take the female body into consideration. There are still manufacturers who design for women exclusively in shades of pink, however. The greatest issues reported relate to PPE and work clothing include gloves, boots and harnesses. Small men and large men may also have problems with PPE. Employers must understand that they are required to provide PPE at no cost, and in sizes that fit. PPE surveys can help with this problem.

Sanitation is not just a women's issue. Many work locations do not have adequate sanitary facilities (toilets), hand washing stations, trash containers, potable drinking water and more. The issue is compounded for women, however, who must undress to use the toilet, who follow workers who may soil the seat or floor, and who may be forced to use a portable toilet not exclusively for women. Except in some states, separate facilities are not a requirement, so employers should consider the number of each gender working for them, how many toilets are needed, the cleaning schedule, who is restocking supplies, and more. The table provided by OSHA is antiquated and a minimum safety requirement, not a best practice.

Workers need to be aware of exposures that could harm fetuses or affect a woman's ability to become pregnant. Teratogenic agents, which can affect embryos and cause malformations, may affect a woman before she is aware of a pregnancy. Mutagenicity can be related to chemical exposure and cause genetic malformation. Other chemicals and agents can cause impaired sperm formation or infertility. Again, not just a concern of women. Employers need to be aware of the chemicals they are using, exposure limits, and types of damage that chemicals can produce. Workers must know what chemicals they are exposed to, how they can cause harm, and what they can do to protect themselves.

Finally, women are sometimes thought of as “disposable”; frequently the last to be hired and first to be laid off. They may not be given an opportunity to prove their skills and abilities and although they may receive the same project orientation, they may not receive the type or level of craft-specific or task-specific training as their male counterparts. As an example, if all they are expected to know are fire watch duties, there is often a great deal of training that is missed. If a woman (or man) cannot demonstrate competency because of lack of training, they are overlooked, regardless of their abilities.

It's essential for us to understand that "if it affects her, it affects him...", and to look broadly at our work to make it as safe, diverse and equitable as possible.



## SAFETY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

### *Safety Consulting Services*

Did you know that ASCC offers safety consulting services for members? Take advantage of a comprehensive safety evaluation of your written program, safety leadership, and/or field operations. All evaluations are performed by ASCC's director of safety services; an objective approach with the experience and knowledge of industry best practices to help members ensure their safety program is compliant, working and up-to-date.

There are several options to best fit your organization's needs. They include written program review, Silica Dust Generating Activities Program Assessment, and On-Site Safety and Risk Assessment performed on your jobsite(s). As conditions settle from the pandemic and travel is normalizing, now is a perfect time to take advantage of an on-site safety evaluation. For more information, contact ASCC director of safety services, Joseph Whiteman @ [jwhiteman@asconline.org](mailto:jwhiteman@asconline.org).



## HARD HATS TO HELMETS

### *Safety Management Beyond a Regulatory Approach* *Jerry Shupe, corporate director of safety & health, Hensel Phelps*

The hard hat has symbolized the construction industry for decades. Many of us kept our hard hats throughout our career as a reminder of the iconic projects we helped build. While we've made great advances in protecting our people, the construction industry continues to have the greatest number of fatal and nonfatal traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) in the United States from accidents associated with falls and being struck by an object. Despite these statistics, the hard hat has not significantly changed for over 50 years.

Some in our industry have called for change as a result of these statistics, or possibly because of an accident on their site. We have learned that helmets can help reduce TBIs because they provide lateral protection (not just top-down) and chin straps that help keep the helmet on the user's head. Hensel Phelps began evaluating helmet-type head protection in 2020 as we recognized the importance of looking beyond a regulatory approach to safety and health management.

**Evaluation Process:** Our approach was to provide KASK helmets and accessories to approximately 75 people on projects around the country. We felt it important to evaluate the helmet in different climates and to include various job roles including supervision and craft. Participants wore the helmet for six months and were asked to complete a survey once the evaluation period was complete. The evaluation measured concerns including comfort, temperature, hygiene, accessories, and recommendations for future use.

**Pilot Results:** Once the evaluation period was complete, the results indicated that 47% of users felt that the KASK helmet should be adopted by the organization. 18% were neutral and 35% did not want to proceed. Additional questions indicated almost all favorable responses except when asked about the chin strap. User experience for fit and comfort was rated the highest and the majority of the craft in the trial group recommended the transition. As a result, we began offering the KASK Zenith helmet to all our people and nearly one-third have voluntarily transitioned.

**Lessons Learned:** The transition from hard hats to helmets is a large undertaking and one that requires planning and strategy. It is extremely important to educate your employees on the

benefits of helmets and to get buy-in from all stakeholders. As an example, we incorporated short videos about the benefits of helmets and using QR codes on informational posters that were posted to our employee portal. It is also extremely important that leadership supports the process and that they lead by example.

**Cost:** Helmets are generally more expensive than a standard hard hat. Organizations need to be prepared to answer why the transition is important. A devastating accident has a significant impact on the injured party, but also affects the company as a whole. As part of our evaluation process we completed a cost analysis on our current hard hat and the KASK Zenith helmet. We determined that over 10 years the cost of a helmet is approximately the same as the helmet has a longer service life and you do not need to replace the liner on an annual basis. Hensel Phelps provides a red hard hat to employees with us for six months and less. White hard hats are given to employees from six months to five years. A gold hard hat is issued to “Old Timer” employees employed for over five years. This program was carefully considered when evaluating the cost. We use a red sticker manufactured by KASK that can be peeled off once the employee reaches six months.

**Fit:** While the majority of our trial group found the helmet comfortable, once implementation started, we learned the KASK does have limitations for people with large heads. The extra-large size does not fit everyone and alternatives may be necessary. Additionally, people with a smaller head may need to use a spacer, which can be purchased for a small fee.

**Production:** The final helmet rollout required careful coordination with KASK and our supplier. Our helmets are a custom color with specific company branding which needed to be carefully reviewed. Once the mockup helmets were approved, production and shipping from Italy added additional time. It is extremely important to find a trusted distributor that will manage inventory and make sure you have an adequate supply of helmets and accessories.

Advances in technology, including PPE, are rapidly impacting the safety and health of our workforce. Employers must evaluate new technologies to determine if they will provide enhanced safety measures without additional risk. I believe the transition to helmets should be considered by all companies in our industry. Help prevent TBIs by making the switch.

**KASK User Survey**

Delivering  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in all we do.

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Thank you for participating in our KASK helmet trial. Your honest feedback will help Hensel Phelps' leadership make the best possible decision when evaluating our options for head protection.

Complete this survey with your honest evaluation of the KASK helmet based on your experience and return it to Jerry Shupe no later than December 31, 2020. Surveys can be emailed to [jshupe@henselphelps.com](mailto:jshupe@henselphelps.com).

User Information				
Name	Project			
Position	Length of time (months)			
District	Accessories used			

User Feedback				
Question	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Comments
The helmet and liner were comfortable.	50	40	10	
The helmet and liner fit me appropriately.	50	40	10	
The chin strap was comfortable to wear.	50	40	10	
The helmet and accessories did not negatively affect my job.	50	40	10	
The temperature inside the helmet was comfortable.	50	40	10	
The liner was tapered (did not smell) after use from sweat.	50	40	10	
The accessories made my job easier.	50	40	10	
The accessories were easy to use.	50	40	10	
The helmet provides additional protection.	50	40	10	
I feel safer wearing the KASK helmet.	50	40	10	

Additional Questions				
What was your perception of KASK safety helmets prior to the trial?	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Comments
Has your perception of KASK safety helmets changed?	Excellent	Good	Neutral	None
Do you feel KASK helmets provide additional protection?	Yes	No	Neutral	No
Do you recommend Hensel Phelps adopt KASK safety helmets?	Yes	No	Neutral	No

Additional Comments

Thank you for your participation

**OUR VALUES**

OWNERSHIP | INTEGRITY | BUILDER | DIVERSITY | COMMUNITY



**HENSEL PHELPS**  
SINCE 1908



■ Adopt ■ Neutral ■ Negative ■

## ***Helmet Heads***

Albanelli Cement Contractors  
 Alberici  
 Barton Malow  
 Belfast Valley Contractors  
 Birmingham Decorative Concrete  
 California Engineering Contractors  
 Ceco Concrete Construction  
 Century Concrete  
 Charles Pankow Builders  
 Concreate  
 Concrete Strategies  
 DPR Construction  
 GH Phipps Construction Cos.  
 Hensel Phelps  
 Hyde Concrete  
 Industrial Caulk and Seal  
 Joseph J. Albanese  
 Kent Companies  
 Largo Concrete  
 Lloyd Concrete Services  
 Martin Concrete Construction

McGillicuddy Concrete  
 Mike Payne & Associates  
 MK Concrete Construction  
 Neuber Concrete  
 Phaze Concrete  
 Poppoff, Inc.  
 PROCON, Inc.  
 Ruttura & Sons Const. Co.  
 Somero Enterprises  
 STRUCTURAL  
 Surfacing Solutions  
 Swinerton Builders  
 The Art of Concrete  
 Trademark Concrete Systems  
 Turner Brothers  
 Webcor Concrete  
 Wm. Winkler Co.  
 Woodland Tilt-Up  
 Z Con, LLC

## ***From the Safety Hotline*** ***Joe Whiteman, director of safety services***

**Q:** I am a new member to ASCC and joined hoping to take advantage of some of your safety resources. We are starting to work for larger contractors that require us to submit Job Hazard Analysis docs for the activities we will be performing. I see that ASCC offers JHAs. Can we use them as our own and submit them to the GC?

**A:** Yes. There are over 50 different Job Hazard Analysis documents available to members for that purpose. ASCC's Safety and Risk Management Council developed the JHAs so members do not have to "reinvent the wheel." You will need to make the JHAs company-specific and incorporate other site hazards specific to the job. You also need to identify responsible individuals or competent persons assigned to specific tasks. All JHAs come in Word, making it easy to modify or copy and paste to any template.



## **EVENTS**

### ***ASCC Safety Roundtables***

All roundtables are at 2 pm Central.

May 25: Heat Illness Prevention

June 15: Safety Incentive Programs - How Are You Celebrating Safe Behavior?

July 20: Opioid Abuse in Construction

[Register](#)

**Safety Summit**

November 10-11, 2022  
Courtyard Albuquerque Airport  
Albuquerque, NM



**BOOKSTORE**



These 52 Tool Box Safety Training talks were submitted by ASCC contractor members, and reviewed and edited by the ASCC Safety & Risk Management Council. Concrete construction safety is the primary focus of these talks. Use a different talk each week to meet the requirements of your safety program. Contains logs for maintaining an attendance record. Available in English or Spanish. [Purchase in our bookstore.](#)


*Safety Products & Services*



## ASCC Safety & Insurance Hotline

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