



**Welcome** to the first edition of our quarterly safety newsletter. It seems fitting with the importance ASCC puts on safety, to the point of having a fulltime director of safety services, we would have a newsletter dedicated to this topic. The newsletter is one of five strategies under the SRMC's Strategic Plan Goal #1: Expand and improve communication between the organization and those responsible for safety in member companies. To do that, we are increasing our safety database, attempting to acquire the contact information of every member's safety professional(s). If you know someone in your company who should be receiving ASCCSAFE, please email [Rachel Zuellig](#).

The newsletter will cover timely issues, as well as members' journeys to improved safety programs. We'll highlight safety moments shared at ASCC meetings, feature ASCC safety resources, and provide a list of educational and networking opportunities allowing you to hear from your peers, hopefully mining tips and tricks to make your lives, and those of your colleagues simpler and safer. Please let me know if you have something you would like to contribute, and share this with others in your organization who might benefit. Be Safe!

Bev Garnant, executive director



## **DIRECTOR OF SAFETY SERVICES MESSAGE**

### ***S.T.A.R. Program About to Be Launched! Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services***

It is with great pleasure I announce our new Safety Training Assessment and Recognition (S.T.A.R.) program, a fantastic new resource to help members improve safety performance, regardless of size. It is important to note that S.T.A.R. is not a new safety award, but a benchmarking tool to help companies assess where they stand with their safety program, and help them take the next steps toward improving safety performance and refining their safety culture.

S.T.A.R. is used to benchmark your current safety program and performance; identify areas for improvement; and serve as a roadmap as you refashion your program, performance, and culture throughout your organization. Participating companies will document their level of achievement from Participant, One STAR to Five STAR, based on their incident rates (TRIR) and results from a self-assessment based on a weighted points scale. Each level has a mandatory minimum score. Once you have submitted your S.T.A.R. application, documenting your company's safety information and your self-assessment score, based on 15 Key Performing Indicators (KPIs), ASCC will tabulate your final score to show you where your company stands in the program.

The S.T.A.R. program is based on a three-year cycle. The first time you complete the application process and receive your initial rating you will have established your baseline. During off years you can utilize S.T.A.R. and the 15 KPIs as a gap analysis to identify policies, programs and initiatives that can be incorporated into your safety program to improve performance. Companies maintain their rating throughout the duration of the three-year cycle if they do not receive a serious OSHA citation or had a fatality. Resubmit at the next cycle to receive a new score and potentially a higher rating. As you continue to participate and incorporate new tools and best practices, you'll realize increased safety performance, reduced accident and injury rates, and a safety culture that

promotes buy-in and ownership on all levels.

Submission for S.T.A.R. will coincide with each year's ASCC Safety Award due dates for ease of submission, as well as to ensure receipt of your S.T.A.R. certificate and achievement recognition at the Annual Conference Safety Awards.



## THE LATEST

### ***COVID-19 – A Look at What's Happening in Construction*** ***Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services***

Almost one year into the pandemic and what do we know? There's a reason this is called the "Novel Corona Virus" as we have seen many iterations of protection measures, testing, and quarantine protocols. As concrete contractors, much of our work has been deemed essential. Subsequently, we have become our own subject matter experts on what works and what does not. As time goes on we continue to be better prepared, protected and equipped to continue working safely and ensuring our employees remain healthy.

That said, there is good news to share. COVID-19 cases are decreasing and have dropped drastically over the last several weeks across the U.S. As of February 18, the seven-day average of reported cases saw a 70% decline. Both the nationwide rate of new hospital admissions and the daily deaths from COVID-19 continue to decline. Testing data is also showing a downward trend with positive COVID-19 tests, with the seven-day nationwide average dipping below six percent. Currently, there are only six states that remain above a 10 percent average for positive test results. This is a good sign overall and moving in the right direction. The recent vaccine roll-out should only help towards expediting the current trends.

Despite these encouraging statistics, OSHA is considering issuing an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). With the new administration comes more focus on worker safety and as stated during his campaign, President Biden would put a priority on an ETS that requires employers to protect workers from COVID-19. Thus far, there has been no ETS issued. On January 29, however, the Department of Labor's Occupational Health and Safety Administration released [\*Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace.\*](#)

This document is intended to help employers and workers identify the risks of contracting COVID-19 in the workplace, and provides specific control measures to implement and mitigate those hazards. While containing recommendations and descriptions of existing mandatory safety and health standards, it does not create new legal responsibility for employers. Simply put, this document is an advisory tool, consisting of recommendations employers can implement to provide a safe and healthy work environment.

The information found in this guidance should not come as a surprise to you. To be honest, if we are all doing what we are supposed to -- abiding by OSHA, CDC and local government requirements and recommendations -- the contents of this document should already be incorporated into our programs and policies. Items outlined within this document are:

- COVID-19 Prevention Program
- Return to Work Criteria
- Social Distancing
- Engineering Controls, Face Covering and PPE Protocols
- Sanitization, Cleaning and Disinfecting Practices

Now is a great time to review your current COVID-19 programs and policies to ensure you are up to date. Refer to the items listed above and compare against what your company has implemented. If you can update your program in any way, rest assured that for everything listed in this guidance, ASCC has the tools to help you do just that. Ensuring that you are current with these recommendations, should OSHA issue an Emergency Temporary Standard, you will be

prepared and up to date.



## WHAT'S WORKING

### ***Wayne Brothers' Safety Journey***

***Jason Sisk, Director of Safety & Human Resources, Wayne Brothers***

In 2007 Wayne Brothers (WBI) began its journey to build a safer company. Prior to 2007 it was Wayne Brothers' intention to provide a safe work environment for employees and subcontractors, but safety was not the #1 priority. Over the last 14 years Wayne Brothers has implemented new safety initiatives, policies, and procedures to help ensure that safety is #1 on all projects. Some of those include criminal background checks for all new hires' post-offer; pre-employment fit-for-duty exams for all craft level employees; a two-day, new hire orientation that includes OSHA 10 Hour training; daily pre-task planning; daily stretching; and a 100% cut level 3 (or higher) glove policy. One hundred percent of WBI employees hold an OSHA 10 HR or 30 HR card. Our goal is to update those cards every five years. WBI currently employs a safety director and four safety supervisors, along with a fully staffed training department.

Most recently WBI has started using Merit Technologies' Environmental Health and Safety software to conduct safety audits, incident investigations, document disciplinary action, and track safety equipment, and we're currently evaluating it for subcontractor management.

Since driving is one of our top risks, WBI has installed GPS on 50% of its fleet vehicles. Additional GPS units will likely be installed over the coming year.

Wayne Brothers strives daily to provide a safe work environment for its employees and subcontractors. As part of the safety journey begun in 2007, safety has become the #1 priority. Now our company culture truly reflects safety in addition to quality and production. Some of the results of the WBI safety journey include the ASCC 2020 W. Burr Bennett Award, 2.8 Million Hours and 31 months without a Lost Time Accident, 2020 OSHA Recordable Incident Rate of 0.58, and Zero OSHA citations in six years.



## SAFETY RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

### ***Safety Awards***

Each year ASCC recognizes those contractors who have successful safety programs. Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Members who have improved from last year
- Members with zero lost time incidents
- Members with an incident rate better than the industry average
- Members with the lowest incident rate in each of the six classifications below
  - General Contractor; Less than 100,000 work hours
  - General Contractor; 100,000 to 250,000 work hours
  - General Contractor; Over 250,000 work hours
  - Specialty Contractor; Less than 100,000 work hours
  - Specialty Contractor; 100,000 to 250,000 work hours
  - Specialty Contractor; Over 250,000 work hours

General contractors and specialty contractors in the top 10% of all applicants will be invited to apply for ASCC's prestigious W. Burr Bennett Award for Safety Excellence.

## **Construction Safety Week - May 3-7, 2021**

Every year ASCC participates in Construction Safety Week. As a longtime partner, we understand the importance of safety and the need to celebrate it. This year the focus of Safety Week is *Committed to Holistic Safety - Be Present. Be Focused. Be Safe.* With all the safety challenges we face on the jobsite, we often forget to address outside factors and hazards that affect our work environment, taking the focus off the task at hand and leading to accidents and injuries. Some of these factors are mental health, financial challenges, personal struggles and the current pandemic. Safety Week 2021 will focus on how being physically and mentally present positively influences safety and productivity. Please join us and get involved. Sign up at: <https://www.constructionsafetyweek.com/> and be sure to share pictures of how you recognized the day.



### ***Making the Change at DPR*** **Jose Garza**

DPR Construction is on a mission to be a most admired company by 2030. The safety, health and well-being of our employees are critical components to our goal. Safety is a value at DPR; because of that we must be leaders in the space of EHS. As leaders our actions must reflect our intent. Through EHS innovation, we will continue to demonstrate our desire to “Respect the Individual” and “Change the World.”

To that end, DPR made the decision to transition from hard hats to helmets in late 2020. Slips, trips, and falls are still the leading cause of injury and death in the construction industry. One injury associated with those types of incidents is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). TBIs are often life altering injuries and we believe helmets will make a difference.

It was not easy making this companywide change quickly. Utilizing a Team of Teams approach helped us identify which key stakeholders to engage through the lifecycle of the change, from formulating the problem statement, a beta test, choosing the right vendor (partner), building a cascading communication plan, and, ultimately, changing how we take care of our people.

What we learned along the way is simple, but not easy. Here are three things to consider.

- Communication is key and you cannot do enough of it. Use every channel available to spread the word. Do not underestimate the power of frontloading an education campaign. Make sure you include why this change is important to your organization.
- Start with leadership and influencers. Get buy in, helmets and information into their hands ASAP. Allow them to lead the change and use their relationships and connection with the frontline worker to get buy-in.
- Honor the past, inspire the future. There is so much identity and personal experience wrapped up in the history of the hard hat. Do not dismiss the apprehension; acknowledge it, be patient and assure everyone that new stories are soon to be attached to their new helmet.



## **EVENTS**

### **ASCC Safety Roundtables**

April 21, 3-4 pm CDT

How to Establish and Maintain Your Safety Culture With the Influx of New Employees

May 19, 3-4 pm CDT

June 16, 3-4 pm CDT

[Registration](#)

**Construction Safety Week**  
May 3-7, 2021

**Safety Summit**  
November 12, 2021  
Houston, TX



## BOOKSTORE

### ***Tool Box Talks***

52 Tool Box Safety Training talks were submitted by contractor members, and reviewed and edited by the 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 and Spanish. [Purchase in our bookstore.](#)




### ***Safety Products & Services***



### **ASCC Safety & Insurance Hotline**

 [asconline.org](http://asconline.org)

 [srmchotline@asconline.org](mailto:srmchotline@asconline.org)

 833-281-9602