OSHA News Release

2005 - 01/20/2005 - OSHA Forms Safety and Health Alliance with the New York Concrete Masonry Association and the New York State Department of Labor

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OSHA Regional News Release

U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs

Region 2

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OSHA Forms Safety and Health Alliance with the New York Concrete Masonry Association and the New York State Department of Labor

NEW YORK -- Improving job safety and health for workers in the concrete masonry manufacturing industry is the goal of a new alliance forged by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the New York Concrete Masonry Association (NYSCMA) and the New York State Department of Labor's On-Site Consultation Program.

OSHA health and safety alliances are part of U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao's ongoing efforts to improve the health and safety of workers through cooperative partnerships.

The purpose of the alliance is to provide NYSCMA members and others with information, guidance and training resources to protect the safety and health of workers on the job. Alliance participants will work together to develop training and education programs about serious workplace safety and health hazards and provide their expertise in communicating this information to employers and employees.

"This alliance is an example of Secretary Chao's commitment to find cooperative ways to improve health and safety for all workers," said Patricia K. Clark, OSHA's regional administrator in New York. "We want to help educate employers and their workers to recognize and avoid hazards on the job."

The New York State Concrete Masonry Association is a professional association of producers of concrete masonry products and associate members related to the industry. The association is committed to the growth and success of the concrete masonry products industry through education and training, market development, and innovation.

Signing the alliance were Patricia K. Clark, OSHA's regional administrator; the OSHA area directors for Albany, Buffalo, Manhattan, Long Island and Syracuse; Nicholas Carparelli, executive director for the New York State Concrete Masonry Association; and James Rush, director of the New York State On-Site Consultation Program.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has created more than 230 alliances with organizations committed to fostering safety and health in the workplace. Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach and education; establishing partnerships, and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

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Occupational Safety & Health Administration
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Washington, DC 20210

AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE
BETWEEN
THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
ALBANY AREA OFFICE
BUFFALO AREA OFFICE
LONG ISLAND AREA OFFICE
MANHATTAN AREA OFFICE
SYRACUSE AREA OFFICE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HEALTH
ON-SITE CONSULTATION SERVIE

AND

THE NEW YORK STATE CONCRETE MASONRY ASSOCIATION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the New York State Department of Labor's Division of Safety and Health On-Site Consultation Program (NYS Consultation) and the New York State Concrete Masonry Association (NYSCMA) recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to foster safer and more healthful American workplaces. OSHA, NYS Consultation and NYSCMA hereby form an Alliance to provide NYSCMA members and others with information, guidance, and access to training resources that will help them protect employees' health and safety, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to silica, amputation, ergonomic and noise hazards. In developing this Alliance, OSHA, NYS Consultation and NYSCMA recognize that OSHA's State Plan and Consultation Project partners are an integral part of the OSHA national effort.

OSHA, NYS Consultation and NYSCMA will work together to achieve the following training and education goals:

- Work with OSHA to provide expertise to develop training and education programs for NYSCMA members and others regarding silica, amputation, ergonomic and noise hazards and to provide expertise in communicating such information to employers and employees in the industry.

- Work with OSHA to provide expertise to develop workplace safety and health curricula on silica, machine guarding, noise, and ergonomic hazards.

OSHA, NYS Consultation and NYSCMA will work together to achieve the following outreach and communication goals:

- Work with OSHA to provide expertise in developing information on the recognition and prevention of workplace hazards, and to provide expertise in developing ways of communicating such information (e.g. print and electronic media, electronic assistance tools and OSHA's and the NYSCMA Web sites to employers and employees in the industry.

- Speak, exhibit, or appear at NYSCMA Member Development Conferences, and local meetings.

- Promote and encourage NYSCMA members' participation in OSHA's cooperative programs such as compliance assistance, the Voluntary Protection Programs, and Consultation and its Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program. .

- Work with other Alliance participants on specific issues and projects in the concrete block and brick industry that are addressed and developed through the Alliance Program.

- Encourage NYSCMA member worksites to build relationships with OSHA's New York Area Offices, and NYS Consultation to address health and safety issues, including silica, amputation, ergonomic and noise hazards.

OSHA, NYS Consultation and NYSCMA will work together to achieve the following goals related to promoting the national dialogue on workplace safety and health:

- Raise others' awareness of and demonstrate their own commitment to workplace safety and health whenever NYSCMA leaders address groups.

- Develop and disseminate case studies illustrating the business value of safety and health and publicize their results.

- Convene or participate in forums, round table discussions, or stakeholder meetings on silica, machine guarding, lockout/tagout, noise and ergonomic issues to help forge innovative solutions in the workplace or to provide input on safety and health issues.

The NYS Consultation will provide resources, as necessary and available, to support the training and technical assistance needs for the participants of this Alliance. Such assistance may be in the form of on-site consultation visits and /or occupational safety and health training. Findings from any on-site consultation surveys will be kept confidential, so long as the requesting employer agrees to correct any serious hazards that may be identified. There are no costs to the alliance participants from any assistance provided by the NYS Consultation.

OSHA's Alliances provide parties an opportunity to participate in a voluntary cooperative relationship with OSHA for purposes such as training and education, outreach and communication and promoting a national dialogue on workplace safety and health. These Alliances have proved to be valuable tools for both OSHA and its Alliance participants. By entering into an Alliance with a party, OSHA is not endorsing any of that party's products or services; nor does the Agency enter into an Alliance with the purpose of promoting a particular party's products or services.

An implementation team made up of representatives of all organizations will meet to develop a plan of action, determine working procedures, and identify the roles and responsibilities of the participants. In addition, they will meet at least three times per year to track and share information on activities and results in achieving the goals of the Alliance.

This agreement will remain in effect for two years. Any signatory may terminate it for any reason at any time, provided they give 30 days written notice. This agreement may be modified at any time with the concurrence of all signatories.

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Date

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