What are our priorities?

CPWR-The Center for Construction Research and Training serves as the National Construction Center under a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) cooperative agreement. Since 1990, the Center’s research has focused on reducing occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the construction industry. Current priorities include:

• Preventing injuries and fatalities, such as those caused by falls from roofs, ladders, and scaffolds
• Reducing hearing loss among construction workers
• Reducing hazardous respiratory exposures, especially from crystalline silica and emerging technologies
• Reducing work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
• Putting research into practice

What do we do?

• Collaborate with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NIOSH, and the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Construction Sector Council on development, implementation, and promotion of the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction and the National Safety Stand-Down.
• Analyze data to track safety and health trends and changes in workforce demographics in construction, and identify emerging hazards and research needs, including among Hispanic workers who make up roughly 30% of U.S. construction workers.
• Investigate and develop tools to improve jobsite safety climate and safety leadership.
• Explore emerging hazards and offer guidance on potential risks and preventative measures.

What have we accomplished?

• Disseminated Quarterly Data Reports (QDRs) on high priority topics, such as the increased burden of fatal injuries among small construction employers. The QDRs have been cited in articles in Safety+Health Magazine and Construction Dive.
• Piloted and launched bestbuiltplans.org (visited more than 2,000 times) to provide contractors and workers with practical tools, microgames, and information to plan for safe materials handling while staying productive and profitable. Articles have run in the Construction Financial Management Association’s Building Profits Magazine, Inland Northwest AGC’s newsletter, and California Department of Public Health’s newsletter.
• Released the Exposure Control Database (ECD), an interactive task-based tool designed to help contractors predict exposure to workplace hazards, such as respirable crystalline silica, welding fume and noise.
• Distributed the Construction Noise & Hearing Loss Prevention Training Program at meetings of safety and health trainers and made it accessible to the industry through CPWR’s website. The program includes modules and exercises that can be used on their own or as part of OSHA training programs.

What’s next?

• Publish new research findings and data on isocyanates, falls, MSDs, and segments of the construction industry at disproportionate risk.
• Complete and analyze a survey of industry stakeholders to find ways to mitigate the risk for trench incidents and deaths.
• Plan and host the 5th annual r2p Seminar and Partnership Workshop with a focus on moving completed research into practice.
• Increase the content of the ECD by collecting exposure data from insurers, contractor associations, researchers and others, and promoting its use.
• Support the completion and implementation of the r2p Roadmaps developed for the Center’s research projects.

Mention of any company or product does not constitute endorsement by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.