

ANNUAL ALLIANCE REPORT

U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration Baton Rouge Area Office

And

Louisiana Associated General Contractors of America (LAGC)

July 25, 2015

I. Alliance Background

A. Date Signed:

July 25, 2013

B. Evaluation Period:

July 25, 2014 to July 25, 2015

C. Overview:

The Alliance with the Louisiana Associated General Contractors (LAGC) was established to create a collaborative relationship to foster safer and more healthful workplaces. The goals of the Alliance are to be achieved through sharing information, providing guidance, and access to training resources to protect employees' health and safety. Particular focus is to be paid to reducing and preventing exposure to struck-by, falls, caught-in-between and electrical hazards, and understand the rights of workers and the responsibilities of employers under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act).

The LAGC is a statewide, full-service construction trade association representing about 800 general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and service firms throughout Louisiana. Formed in 1949, LAGC is one of 101 chapters of the 33,000-member Associated General Contractors of America, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The LAGC Safety Committee is responsible for continually updating the membership on any new or revised standards and regulations, to provide oversight and review on all LAGC safety training, and to maintain the Alliance with OSHA. The LAGC Safety Committee comprises a large concentration of area contractors and safety professionals, and through the Alliance has a mission of supporting the industry through outreach efforts.

D. Implementation Team Members:

OSHA

Dorinda Folse, Area Director/Baton Rouge Area Office

Alexander Novas, Compliance Assistance Specialist (CAS)/Baton Rouge Area Office

Louisiana Associated General Contractors (LAGC), Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Jerry Arnold, Safety Committee Chairman/LAGC

Mike Demouy, Manger/LAGC

II. Implementation Team Meetings

The Safety Committee members and officers meet monthly to discuss the progress of the Alliance and topical information covering industry's safety and health concerns. The monthly meetings commonly feature a selected safety and health topic relevant to the group. Alliance activities are planned and coordinated at the monthly meetings. OSHA representation normally provides an update presentation and fields a variety of questions from industry professionals regarding regulatory implementation and compliance.

III. Activities and Products

Training and Education

- The LAGC Safety Committee held a seminar on "Preparing for an OSHA Inspection." The seminar was free and open to all members and included information on employer responsibilities, regulatory requirements and the recognition of worksite hazards. The seminar was held in New Orleans, Louisiana
- The LAGC hosted a free seminar for members on Soil and Hazard Recognition in Excavations. This seminar was conducted by a member of the Safety Committee. The attendees learned about soil mechanics, soil recognition, soil classification, soil testing, as well as hazard recognition and the appropriate corrective action.

Outreach and Communication

- The Baton Rouge Area Office, CAS provided literature which included educational brochures, pamphlets and training materials. The publications and information are made available by the LAGC for distribution throughout the year.
- The Baton Rouge Area Office, CAS electronically distributed a daily e-mail that provided current occupational safety and health related information, news, issues and topics.
- The Safety Committee agreed to offer free site inspections to local member employers. These inspections are geared towards making employers and employees more aware of good safety practices and OSHA requirements.

- In addition to on-site inspections, the Safety Committee offered to provide guidance and advice to member employers that had questions they wanted to bring before the group.
- The LAGC Safety Committee facilitated an open forum, question and answer session with the Baton Rouge Area Office’s Area Director and Compliance Assistance Specialist from the Houston North Area Office. The session was open to all members and provided an opportunity to discuss important issues and concerns with local OSHA representatives.
- In July, an Assistant Area Director from the Baton Rouge Area Office attended the monthly meeting to discuss the new rule on “Confined Spaces in Construction.”
- The LAGC purchased a computer based program for the Safety Committee that can be used to assist in determining what employees are more likely to take on risk. The program’s assessment can help employees develop greater work site self-awareness, and lessen the potential for incidents.

Promoting the National Dialogue on Safety and Health

- The LAGC annually recognizes “Workers’ Memorial Day” as a day of remembrance for fallen workers and communicates related information to member employers and industry in the region.
- Two members of the LAGC Safety Committee attended the “AGC of America Safety and Health Conference.” This conference allowed attendees to comment on current OSHA rules and regulations as well as upcoming changes.
- The LAGC supported OSHA’s “National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction” and promoted event training activities to LAGC member employers.
- The LAGC purchased and distributed “Safety Pays” stickers to the members for the Safety Committee to help spread safety awareness to their employees.

IV. Results

The LAGC continues to have access to a greater amount of outreach information and publications and are made aware of the continued efforts of OSHA to reach at-risk industries by sharing current events, safety alerts and best practices.

Type of Activity 2014-2015	Number of Individuals Reached or Trained	Topic(s)
August, Meeting	12	Training New Employees, Best Practices in Hiring/Training, Safety Training for LAGC Members.
September, Meeting	7	Crane Operator Certification, New OSHA Hospitalization Requirement, Training process for new hires.
October, Meeting	9	Temporary Worker Training, Accident Reporting.
November, Seminar	10	Excavation

December, Meeting	14	New Hire Orientation, OSHA Inspections.
February, Meeting	36	OSHA Inspections, OSHA Update, New Reporting Requirements, Defining Term “Hospitalization”, Reporting Accidents By A Sub Contractor, How Does OSHA Target Inspections.
March, Meeting	10	Letter of Interpretation Sent To OSHA, Silica Update, Lead Discussion, and Recordkeeping.
April, Meeting	8	Definition of “Formally Admitted” for hospitalizations, AGC of America Safety Forum
May, Meeting	8	Confined Space Standard, Discussion of local accident in Covington, Trench Safety
July, Meeting	7	OSHA Assistant Area Director, New Rule on Confined Spaces in Construction.
Total	121	

V. Upcoming Milestones

The Alliance plans to build on its first year collaborative efforts and continue towards meeting goals for the next evaluation year.

- Continue monthly safety committee meetings
- Become more tied in at a National Level with AGC of America’s Safety Program
- Provided for additional safety training opportunities throughout Louisiana
- Increase the visibility of the safety committee through website and articles
- Have safety featured at AGC Meetings and/or Conferences
- Renew the OSHA Alliance with the Baton Rouge Area Office

Report prepared by: Alex Novas, Compliance Assistance Specialist, Baton Rouge Area Office