

# ANNUAL ALLIANCE REPORT

## The Occupational Safety and Health Administration Austin Area Office And The Workers Defense Project

August 25, 2015

### I. Alliance Background

#### A. Date Signed

August 22, 2014

#### B. Evaluation Period

This report covers the period between July 15, 2014 and July 15, 2015.

#### C. Alliance Overview

To provide outreach to immigrant workers, provide training on OSHA regulations, policies and procedures to Worker's Defense Project (WDP) employees and volunteers to foster cooperation and to further the dialogue on safety and health.

#### D. Implementation Team Members

##### OSHA

R. Casey Perkins, Area Director, Austin Area OSHA Office

Joann Natarajan, Compliance Assistance Specialist, Austin Area OSHA Office

##### The Workers Defense Project

Cristina Tzintun, Workers Defense Project

### II. Implementation Team Meetings

Alliance meetings (in person or by phone) were held on January 14, 2015, April 07, 2015, and August 04, 2015.

### III. Activities, Events and Products

#### Alliance Activity

- Training and Education: OSHA has provided WDP with 300 copies of OSHA publications for distribution in their construction safety orientation classes.
- Outreach and Communication: OSHA participated in monthly WDP in-take nights to provide Hispanic workers the opportunity to ask questions and file complaints with OSHA. WDP conducts intake nights to allow workers to make complaints about workplace safety issues and nonpayment of wages complaints. As a result of the intake nights, OSHA has received 21 worker complaints, and

fielded numerous safety and health questions from workers and WDP staff and volunteers.

- Promoting the National Dialogue on Safety and Health: OSHA and WDP have worked to promote knowledge about worker rights in Central Texas through a wide range of events targeted to reach immigrant Spanish speaking workers. WDP has made at least two referrals on unsafe worksite conditions that have resulted in OSHA inspections that have protected workers from fall hazards in construction. These referrals were a direct result of the closer working relationship between OSHA and WDP.

**Alliance Products**

- Training and Education: OSHA has provided pamphlets for WDP construction safety orientations, and intake nights. WDP has developed an OSHA 10 hour and safety orientation training that covers fall protection and focus four hazards. OSHA has publicized these events to assist WDP in finding Spanish speaking attendees. OSHA has attended the WDP’s OSHA 10 hour classes to offer workers the opportunity to ask questions about safety and make complaints.
- Outreach and Communication: WDP communicates with OSHA staff weekly to make referrals, make general safety & health inquiries, and to file complaints on behalf of Hispanic workers. OSHA has also received complaints during the intake nights. OSHA has put WDP in contact with outreach events that WDP may wish to participate in, such as HopeFest, an event that does outreach to low income Hispanic families in Central Austin. WDP and OSHA have worked with the Mexican Consulate to do joint network and conduct joint activities to reach out to immigrant workers.
- Promoting the National Dialogue on Safety and Health: The alliance has opened the door of communication with immigrant Spanish workers in the Austin and nationally, so that they can exercise their right to a safe and healthy workplace. WDP has also made several child labor referrals to OSHA which were passed along to Wage & Hour for their action. The AAO CAS added WDP contacts to her fatality update list, which alerted WDP to a fatal workplace accident that they were previously unaware of, resulting in a vigil for the fallen worker, and WDP outreach to immigrant workers at the site.

**IV. Results**

The alliance has raised the Agency’s profile with hard to reach immigrant Spanish speaking workers in the Austin area through a multi-pronged approach.

<b>Type of Activity (Conference, Training, Print and Electronic Distribution, etc.)</b>	<b>Number of Individuals Reached or Trained</b>
Spanish OSHA publications provided	300
In-take nights-workers contacted	600
OSHA 10 hour attendees	80
OSHA Complaints/referrals/inquiries generated as a result of the alliance	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1035</b>

## **V. Upcoming Milestones**

The alliance has impacted Hispanic construction workers by offering free OSHA 10 hour classes, fall protection, and focus four hazard training and through the development of targeted training materials in Spanish offered by WDP. OSHA and WDP renewed the alliance on August 22, 2014 for another two years. The OSHA CAS has been the main contact for questions from WDP staff and volunteers, which have averaged one inquiry per week about referrals and fatalities that have occurred locally.

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