

State Launches Residential Construction Initiative; MIOSHA and the Home Builders Association of Michigan partner together to increase safety awareness on residential construction sites throughout the state

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), in partnership with the Home Builders Association of Michigan (HBA of Michigan), is launching a “Residential Construction Initiative” to assist employers in protecting their workers from the most common hazards associated with residential construction. The initiative runs through May 15, 2015.

“Residential construction has been experiencing moderate growth during the past few years which has contributed to higher injury rates and fatalities in construction,” said Martha Yoder, Director of MIOSHA. “According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total case incident rate (TCIR) for Michigan construction increased from 2.6 injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers in 2011 to 5.0 in 2012. Over the last five years, from 2008 to 2013, over 37% of construction fatalities in Michigan have occurred in the residential industry.”

There are four key components of the initiative:

- A Residential Construction Local Emphasis Program (LEP) – Focusing resources on inspections of single and multi-family home construction. Inspections will focus on the “Residential Top 5” serious hazard categories commonly associated with residential construction. The “Residential Top 5” categories are:
 1. Falls,
 2. Scaffolds,
 3. Ladders,
 4. PPE/Tool Guarding,
 5. Electrical.

- A Residential Construction Initiative webpage has been developed which provides residential employers and employees with an easy one-stop link to access residential-specific information (e.g., checklist, fact sheets, tool box talks, training materials and seminars, webcasts, and fatality case studies.) The webpage can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/miosharesidential.

- “Safety in Residential Construction” training seminars are being offered through local home building chapters around the state by the MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division and the HBA of Michigan. For more information contact the CET Division at 517.322.1809 or go to www.michigan.gov/mioshatraining. Also, go to

the HBA of Michigan website at <http://www.buildingmichigan.org> and click on the education link to see a list of seminars offered by local home builder associations.

- “Building Up Residential Safety Day” Residential contractors across Michigan were invited to participate in a special “Building Up Residential Safety Day” on August 14, 2014. MIOSHA compliance and consultation staff visited Michigan residential worksites and focused on specific hazards/areas as requested by the employer. NO CITATIONS and NO PENALTIES were issued for participating workplaces.

More detailed information about the Residential Construction Initiative is available on the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/miosharesidential.

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