

Annual Alliance Report
U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Dallas Area Office
And
Workers Defense Project –Dallas
June 05, 2015

I. Alliance Background

A. Date Signed

April 28, 2014 - End Date: April 28, 2016

B. Evaluation Period

Apr 28, 2014 through May 29, 2015

C. Overview

Alliance with the Workers Defense Project (WDP) - Dallas and the Dallas Area Office and directed towards reducing injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the construction and general industries. WDP offers safety meetings where best practices and incident trends are discussed, and guest speakers provide safety information to address hazards in the industries.

D. Implementation team Members

OSHA

Stephen Boyd, Area Director, OSHA, Dallas Area Office
Elias Vela, Compliance Assistance Specialist (CAS), OSHA, Dallas Area Office

Workers Defense Project -Dallas

Beatriz Gonzalez, Director (2014), Workers Defense Project - Dallas
Jason Cato, Dallas Director (2015) Workers Defense Project - Dallas

II. Implementation Team Meetings:

Alliance coordination and planning was conducted through phone, email, and meetings. WDP -Dallas meetings were conducted throughout the evaluation period. OSHA CAS was a guest Trainer and conducted an introduction to OSHA presentation for a 10-hour Construction Safety Course where 15 members attended.

III. Events and Products

Training and Education

- Events
 - National Safety Stand-Down for Fall Protection during May 4 - 15, 2015
- Seminars
 - The WDP –Dallas provided a safety forum for workers involved in the construction and manufacturing industries to meet on a routine basis to discuss accident trends, best practices, disseminate safety information, and have speakers talk on relevant topics to safety in the workplace. Meetings are held monthly and last approximately two hours.
- Products
 - A resource slide presentation was developed with industry related safety information and distributed to hundreds of companies in the construction and manufacturing industries.
 - The WDP -Dallas website was updated

Outreach and Communication

- Events
 - Monthly safety forums
- Products
 - Website, <http://www.workersdefense.org/> facilitated the dissemination of workers' rights information and events in the North Texas areas.

Promoting the National Dialogue on Workplace Safety and Health

- Events
 - No National dialogue at this time
- Products

News Release

DALLAS TAKES THE FIRST STEP TOWARD SAFETY - This morning, the Dallas City Council Quality of Life Committee (50, 1 absent) voted unanimously in support of an ordinance guaranteeing Dallas construction workers the right to ten minutes of rest for every four hours of work. The ordinance now goes to the full Council for a vote.

Nearly 40% of Texas construction workers report not receiving rest breaks on the job, and 15% have seen a coworker faint due to heat exhaustion or dehydration. Dallas construction Workers first approached city council about these conditions more than six months ago, during the height of summer heat.

Prior to today's vote, Council Members spoke of a commitment to safety, but repeatedly delayed taking a vote on the ordinance. "This has been a long process, but we are glad to see movement on the ordinance yet again. City Council has a responsibility to pass this ordinance so that workers can do their jobs safely each day. Workers cannot wait any longer," said Juan Cardoza Oquendo,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IV. Results

Participation in the Alliance has helped maintain and improve the knowledge and sharing of best practices for the construction industry in the Dallas area. The WDP Dallas has become a distribution point for safety related classes and information in the area, particularly non-profit classes offered in the area. The meetings average approximately 20 attendees.

OSHA's National Campaign for work-related Heat Stress and National Initiative for Distracted Driving were addressed and materials were provided to members-attendees of the meetings.

V. Upcoming Milestones

Reference the Workers Defense Project – Dallas Website Calendar:

Trabajadores en Acción/Workers in Action

When: Tue, Weekly 7pm – 9pm

Where: 534 W 10th Street, Dallas, TX 75208

Description: This is a weekly meeting where workers can report non-payment of wages and other workplace abuses, and learn about their rights. It's held each Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 534 W 10th Street, Dallas, TX 75208.