

SCF Arizona

A Safety Newsgram for Association and Chamber Executives

Safety Pays



Extreme Makeover photo by Francisco Medina

SCF Arizona Loss Control Consultant Alexis Westin meets John Wesley Miller of John Wesley Miller Companies.

The Alliance of Construction Trades in Tucson was alerted on Jan. 6 that ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* would renovate a house in the area, and it needed help rounding up contractors.

ACT, a business partner in SCF Arizona's Association Safety Program, had three weeks to line up volunteer builders, cement layers, plumbers, electricians and other trades that could help turn a family's dream into reality.

In the current economy, ACT's Executive Director Jim Kuliesh was unsure what kind of participation he'd get.

Kuliesh says construction in Tucson has fallen about 85 percent since the recession began, and many companies have been forced to downsize. Despite that, he got the people he needed.

"Our contractors and our material suppliers are hurting as much as everyone else, so I was simply amazed at the way our members responded."

And when Association Coordinators Mike Felix and Ed Redmond learned of the show, Kuliesh offered SCF a chance to help monitor on-site safety during the demolition and rebuilding phase, Jan. 28-Feb. 3.

"SCF is one of our greatest partners," Kuliesh says. "The partnership with

Great Partners

SCF PROVIDES SAFETY ASSIST

partners

SCF is very unique. There are very few states that offer the kind of relationship SCF does to associations like ours. It's a wonderful partnership."

Several SCF loss control consultants and other personnel worked shifts to make sure all the volunteers at the site worked safely and remained injury free.

Founded in 1986, ACT represents more than 295 specialty trade contractors and material suppliers within the construction industry. The vast majority are SCF policyholders, including John Wesley Miller Companies, which headed up the design and construction of the home in the Tucson Foothills area.

"It was amazing to have so many trades working and stacked on top of each other doing so many different jobs at the same time and not have a single workplace accident," Kuliessh says.

ABC has scheduled the program to air at 7 p.m., March 22, on its affiliates KNXV (Channel 15 in Phoenix) and KGUN (Channel 9 in Tucson). The home was renovated for the

four-member Bell family. Fourteen-year-old Lizzie Bell has Diamond Blackfan anemia, a rare congenital disorder that affects only between 600 and 700 people worldwide.

The condition prevents the teen's blood from producing red blood cells, which are needed to carry oxygen throughout the body. There is no cure, and she needs blood transfusions twice a month. Medical bills have kept the family from being able to maintain their home, which had fallen into disrepair as a result of mold, termite infestation and cracks in the concrete.

New administration, new challenges

The Government Accountability Office, or GAO, suggests the Obama White House has some real challenges in addressing the Department of Labor and the nation's workplaces.

According to the GAO, "The laws, regulations and programs designed to provide protections for workers may need to be revised to reflect significant changes in the demographics of the U.S. workforce and the changes in the nature of work itself."

for you

SCF Safety Works Expos Scheduled

Nearly 1,000 people attended five SCF Arizona Safety Works Expos in 2008, which took place in Flagstaff, Lake Havasu City, Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma. Two events are scheduled in 2009, with the first occurring March 24 at the Prescott Resort and Conference Center, 1500 State Route 69.

The Greater Phoenix area expo takes place May 5-6 at the Fiesta Inn at the corner of Broadway Road and Priest Drive in Tempe.

Safety Works is designed for safety professionals, employers, workers and the people who are in charge of safety at their jobs. The conferences feature workplace safety information, networking opportunities with other safety professionals and classes that focus on workplace safety issues, which affect all Arizona businesses and workers.

Classes are taught by experts in specific areas of safety. Seminar topics include such issues as building a company safety plan, working in confined spaces, driving safely, protecting workers from jobsite falls, guarding against blood-borne pathogens, hearing conservation and implementing a return-to-work program.

Attendees this year will receive a free Safety Plan template they can use to help develop a safety plan at their companies.

Workplace-related injuries, illnesses and fatalities can have a devastating effect on families and a disastrous impact on the costs businesses must pay for workers' compensation insurance. The goal at Safety Works is to provide information that will help save lives, prevent workplace injuries and to build a culture of safety throughout Arizona.

FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, GO TO THE SCF ARIZONA WEBSITE, WWW.SCF AZ.COM. AND CLICK ON SAFETY & PREVENTION/SAFETY WORKS EVENTS.

Protect Your Back with Proper Shoes



The National Safety Council reports that what you choose to wear on your feet can help prevent back injuries, which account for 25 percent of all workers' compensation indemnity claims.

People who work long hours on hard surfaces can suffer fatigue, and the body then needs to work harder to compensate for a lack of support.

Ways to alleviate fatigue are mats and ergonomic safety equipment. Recently anti-fatiguing footwear has hit the market. These shoes provide better shock absorption, which provide the wearer with better cushioning and support.

But before investing in footwear, the worker should understand the job and what he or she needs to be safe and comfortable. For example, is it a job where slips or trips are common or could items fall and hit the feet?

COPY THAT

Safety Pays articles are available at www.scfaz.com in pdf format. If you need a Word document for reprinting, simply contact your SCF Arizona association coordinator.

Anti-fatiguing footwear is available for different applications. Styles are lightweight and feature soles designed with fluid-channeling, high surface contact for cement or epoxy flooring.

OSHA's online help

OSHA has added a web page focusing on nanomaterials as well as information on the super bug known as MRSA.

OSHA says the first offering defines standards for companies that deal with nanomaterials and lists potential health risks.

OSHA also added to its online "e-Tools" a module providing information on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, the antibiotic-resistant staph infection on the skin. Doctors and hospitals are struggling to treat the condition, which reportedly is on the rise.

To access these OSHA sites go to: www.osha.gov/dsg/nanotechnology/nanotechnology.html. The e-Tools can be found at www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/mro/mrsa/mrsa.html.



Recessionary effects



Historically, economic recessions result in a decline in injury rates because fewer inexperienced workers are retained on jobs where layoffs occur. But on the negative side, safety managers are among personnel who often are considered to be expendable by companies looking to cut payrolls.

That may not be the case during this current recession, the January issue of *Safety + Health* reports.

The magazine's story attributes the continuing decrease in injury and illness rates during the past decade to an increase in safety awareness within the workplace. More companies are integrating a safety culture from top to bottom, the Department of Labor reports.

Keeping well, stay at work



Workplace wellness programs result in fewer sick days, according to a study reported in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*.

The study analyzed nearly 50 other research projects between 1970 and 2005.

What the findings show is that along with a 22 percent reduction in sick days, because workers are healthier, wellness programs are linked to a lessening of emotional exhaustion, as well as improvements in mental health and work ability.

Calendar

Watch for these seminars coming to your area. For additional classes and other information, visit www.scfaz.com and click on **Policyholders/Safety & Prevention** or contact SCF Arizona's Risk Management Team at 602.631.2008.

MAR. 12

Back Injury Prevention • Prescott

MAR. 19

Return to Work • Tucson

MAR. 24

Safety Works Expo • Prescott

APR. 2

Forklift: Train the Trainer • Phoenix

APR. 18

Forklift: Train the Trainer • Prescott

APR. 23

Return to Work • Phoenix

APR. 15

Excavation Safety; Fall Protection
• Lake Havasu City

MAY 5-6

Safety Works Expo • Tempe

MAY 13

Fall Protection • Phoenix

MAY 14

Ergonomics; Back Injury Prevention
• Flagstaff

JUNE 3

Scaffold Safety • Phoenix

JUNE 11

Return to Work • Tucson

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