

## FREE Training on the Horizon in the New Year

By: Robert Lahey, Construction Safety Council

PowerForward DuPage has a partnership with the Construction Safety Council and both organizations share a commitment to enhancing and preserving the well-being of IBEW employers and employees. Discounted programs and services are available on a variety of topics to make safety training affordable and accessible throughout the Chicagoland region.

In 2022, this partnership will be expanded to include two opportunities for electrical, energy, and communication contractors to learn more about **Infectious Diseases** and **Fall Protection**. Both topics are addressed in new coursework developed by the Construction Safety Council and offered at no cost with federal grant funding from the U.S. Labor Department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

During the next twelve months, these training sessions are open for enrollment, either in-person or in a distance learning format (i.e., Zoom technology). This can be accomplished at any time but requires a minimum class size of three persons. The Construction Safety Council will host delivery at its training facilities in Hillside, Illinois or make the instruction available upon request at a venue preferred by any PowerForward DuPage member. Each four-hour program includes interactive lectures, demonstrations, and discussions that are of critical importance to the construction industry.

➤ **Infectious Diseases**

A half-day training session focusing on exposure to infectious diseases (including COVID-19) on construction job sites. Oftentimes, unseen hazards present dangers to workforce health and safety that are more threatening than physical hazards. Gain knowledge of measures that will ensure personal hygiene and prevent the spread of harmful airborne and blood-borne contagions. The science may be complicated, but the solutions are easy to include in a company exposure control plan.

➤ **Fall Protection**

Year after year, falls from heights are the leading cause of construction injuries and, not surprisingly, the most-often cited OSHA violation. This half-day training session will address job sites where fall protection is required, which arrest system is appropriate, and the proper supervision required to prevent harm to employees on walking/working surfaces (horizontal and vertical) that are six feet above ground. Proper planning not only reduces the frequency of occurrences, but also the related economic hardships.

Make it a New Year’s Resolution to attend these FREE training programs or schedule them for your employees. Enrollment is available at [www.buildsafe.org](http://www.buildsafe.org) or call (708) 449-8604 to request on-demand delivery at a convenient time and location.

PowerForward DuPage and the Construction Safety Council are pleased to partner in support of this continued effort to ensure that IBEW contractors and members [WorkSmart, BuildSafe](http://www.buildsafe.org).

*Robert Lahey is the President & CEO of the Construction Safety Council located in Hillside, Illinois. For more than 30 years, the Council has delivered programs and services in support of its mission to improve human safety performance through education and training. Learn more at [www.buildsafe.org](http://www.buildsafe.org).*

