

Working Together to Guarantee ET&D Safety

By: Robert Lahey, Construction Safety Council

Nearly twenty years ago, a first-of-its-kind collaboration between electrical industry stakeholders was formed as the Electrical Transmission & Distribution (ET&D) Partnership. Since 2004, membership has doubled in size from six to twelve contractors. All of them share a commitment to safety, along with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



The ET&D Partnership has evolved and made considerable progress in support of its goals:

- Analyze accident and incident data to identify common causes for injuries and fatalities.
- Develop Best Practices in response to known hazards.
- Promote safety and health strategies.
- Identify training criteria that will lead to meaningful change in industry culture.

A formal structure is in place, comprised of an Executive Team (policy-making body), Steering Team (operational arm), and Task Teams (project-specific work groups). All members of the Partnership are dedicated to providing employees with a safe workplace and demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and accountability in furthering worker health.

Best Practice documents and related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been published by the Partnership on a variety of topics, including Isolate and Insulate Equipment, Planning and Risk Assessment, Job Briefings, Qualified Observers, and Safety at Heights. These, and more information about the ET&D Partnership, are available at www.powerlinesafety.org.

Also noteworthy are the accomplishments of the Partnership to provide for delivery of these industry-specific training programs:

OSHA 10-Hour Electrical Construction Industry

This two-day course is tailored to employees involved in the construction and maintenance of power transmission and distribution systems. Persons who complete this training receive a personalized OSHA identification card that recognizes the Partnership.

This course demonstrates to supervisors how they can affect a positive safety culture within their companies by addressing core elements of an effective safety and health management system. This too, results in the issue of a personalized OSHA identification card to training participants.

PowerForward DuPage and the Construction Safety Council are pleased to partner in support of this continued effort to ensure that IBEW contractors and members **Work Smart, Build Safe.**

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.bulldsafe.org