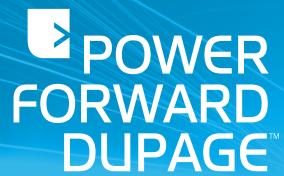


ArcFlash



SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS BULLETIN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COUNCIL



FREE Construction Safety Training in the New Year

By: Robert Lahey, Construction Safety Council

The Construction Safety Council enjoys a partnership with PowerForward DuPage, as both organizations share a commitment to enhancing and preserving the well-being of IBEW Local 701 employers and employees.

In 2026, this partnership is expanding to include new opportunities for contractors and workers to participate in five different safety training sessions. The coursework has been developed by the Construction Safety Council and is offered at **no cost** - thanks to federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

FREE registration is now available on these topics:



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Harmful Silica

Barely visible, but dangerous nonetheless, respirable crystalline silica is the byproduct of sawing, drilling, and crushing concrete, stone, and brick. The dust particles are small enough to be inhaled deep into the lungs, where they can cause serious illness and fatal disease. Learn about the OSHA standard that includes specific measures for employers to protect employees from exposure, including engineering controls, work practices, and respirators.



Excavation Dangers

Working in and around trenches requires attention to multiple hazards, both below-grade and above-ground. And because excavation operations can turn tragic in an instant, everyone must be involved in preventing cave-ins through site inspections, soil/air analyses, and protective systems. The role of a competent person is especially important to ensure compliance with OSHA safety standards. Learn how to Slope – Shore – Shield for best results.



Workzone Hazards

Workzone safety is the predictable outcome of proper planning, combined with skills training, for individuals assigned to temporary traffic control areas. A thorough understanding of government regulations and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is essential - as is the placement and use of flags, signs, barricades, and message boards. Following best practices will reduce the risk of injury, both to workers and motorists.



Fall Protection

It is unfortunate that the need for training to avoid falls is talked about as much as the incidents themselves. But why, and why so often? Because the hazard is commonplace in construction - at height (from scaffolds, ladders, roofs) and on ground (from slips and trips on uneven surfaces). The resulting injuries are usually severe, but entirely preventable with a proactive safety program involving risk assessment, personal equipment, and protective systems.

Each four-hour safety session is delivered in person by expert instructors who are familiar with these common workplace hazards. This is Awareness-Level training that includes classroom presentations, discussions, and demonstrations.

All sessions are now open for enrollment monthly at the Construction Safety Council in Hillside, Illinois. See the calendar events at www.buildsafe.org or scan QR code below.



Private training is also available – any day, any time – upon request by IBEW Local 701 members and contractors. Call 708.449.8604 to learn more about scheduling opportunities, either nearby or nationwide.

Make it a New Year's Resolution to attend for FREE or to host a program of your own.

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](#).

Robert Lahey is the President & CEO of the Chicagoland 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 promote safety within the construction industry by delivering high-quality education and practical training that create safer work environments. Learn more at www.buildsafe.org.