



# BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

## How Is Your Company Doing With Safety and Health Training?

With the start of November, it signals the end of the busier time of year for many construction companies. As we finish up projects and slow down for the winter months ahead, it is time to focus on our safety training plan and goals for 2018.

There are many benefits to effective health and safety training. There is the obvious benefit of keeping workers safe, the fact that a safe workplace can reduce construction costs and OSHA standards require specific training. In addition, many of the common construction hazards can be contained or avoided if proper safety training is provided. It is critical that each employee, from the new hire to the seasoned veteran attend safety meeting and training on a regular basis. At the very least it helps to keep safety on the minds of all employees. Managers and supervisors need to invest the time and energy in providing relevant and useful training, information, instruction and guidance. By making safety a priority, contractors can significantly reduce workplace injury and fatality.

**What To Focus On?** The answer to this question will vary company to company depending on the type of work you do and the hazards presented by that work. You will need to be aware of OSHA training requirements that are applicable to the work you do and the hazards your employees are exposed to. OSHA has a resource that can help you identify those requirements, [www.osha.gov/Publications/osh2254.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh2254.pdf)

Some of the required training topics include: General Safety Requirements,

Hazard Communication, Noise, Silica, Lead, Fall Protection, Personal Protective Equipment, Confined Space, Fire Safety, Electrical, Trenching, Cranes, etc. To supplement required training many companies decide to send their employees to OSHA 10 or 30 Hour Construction Outreach training classes. The objective of these classes is to help employees have a basic understanding and be aware of worksite hazards and how to identify, abate and avoid these hazards.

In addition, there is the Focus Four Hazards In Construction: Falls, Electrocution, Struck By and Caught Between. One could also review the list of frequently cited OSHA standards for other training topics. This list can be found on the OSHA website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

### Additional Training Resources:

OSHA Safety and Health Training Resources:

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

[www.osha.gov/doc/training.html](http://www.osha.gov/doc/training.html)

NIOSH Resources:

[www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/default.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/default.html)

Tool Box Talk Topics from The Center for Construction Research and Training:

<https://www.cpwr.com/publications/handouts-and-toolbox-talks>

There are numerous additional resources available on the Internet for training topics and tools to be utilized as well.



Building Industry Employers  
Of New York State



# Monthly Toolbox Talk

BIE Safety Advisor

## TREE CARE SAFETY AWARENESS

With all the windstorms, remnants of hurricanes coming up the east coast, other weather events, invasive species like the Ash Borer Beetle and other tree related diseases, tree work and care seems to be a constant throughout New York State.

Tree care work can be dangerous. Many workers get hurt or killed from:

- Falls,
- Electrocutions, or
- Being struck by trees

### **ALWAYS ASSUME THAT POWER LINES ARE ENERGIZED!**

- If clearing trees, contact the utility company to discuss de-energizing and grounding or shielding of power lines.
- Extreme caution is necessary when moving ladders and other equipment around downed trees and power lines.
- Always perform a hazard assessment of the work area prior to start of work.

Your employer is responsible for your safety! Employers must provide free protective equipment (hard hat, climbing spurs, chaps and harness) and train you to:

- Identify fall and electrical hazards.
- Know proper climbing techniques.
- Use protective equipment — climbing lines can save your life during a fall!
- Stand clear of the drop zone.



Supervisors must:

- Check the worksite for workplace hazards.
- Make sure the climbing gear provided is right for the tree size.
- Assume that all power lines are energized and can electrocute a person at any time.
- Know if workers will need to climb or use lifts. Provide equipment that is in good working condition.
- Ensure that ground and elevated workers can see and hear each other.
- Provide protections to prevent injuries.

Supervisors also need to:

- Have a trained professional check falling tree hazards before starting work.
- Keep work at least 10 feet away from electric power lines — or call the power company to de-energize and ground the line.
- Secure a drop zone with cones that is at least two times the height of the tree.
- Determine if rigging is necessary.

As a worker, you have the right to:

- A safe and healthy workplace. Your employer is required to provide a workplace that does not put you at risk of injury, illness or death.
- Say something about safety concerns without being punished. If you see hazards or an injury, speak up!
- Receive information and training in a language and vocabulary you understand. This includes information on workplace hazards, how to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to your workplace.

Information for this Tool Box Talk was provided through [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

