Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR)

CPWR National Construction Center
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

What are our priorities?

CPWR-The Center for Construction Research and Training serves as the National Construction Center under a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) cooperative agreement. Since 1990, the Center has focused on reducing occupational injuries, illnesses, fatalities, and promoting worker well-being in the construction industry. Current priorities include:

- Preventing injuries and fatalities, such as those caused by falls from roofs, ladders, and scaffolds.
- Reducing existing and emerging respiratory hazards.
- Reducing painful injuries, such as work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).
- Preventing & helping employers understand & workers cope with opioid use disorder, emphasizing primary prevention.
- Fulfilling the goals above by putting research into practice.

What do we do?

- Collaborate with NIOSH, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Construction Sector Council on developing, implementing, and promoting the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction, National Safety Stand-Down, and other NORA priorities.
- Analyze data to track construction safety, health, and well-being trends, particularly among Hispanic workers and other at-risk populations, identify emerging hazards and research needs, and share data findings.
- Engage the private sector, unions, policymakers, researchers, workers, and other partners in planning, conducting, and disseminating safety and health research.
- Investigate and develop tools to improve job site safety climate and safety leadership.
- Examine emerging hazards and offer guidance on preventative measures for potential risks.
- Provide easy access to information on occupational hazards, evidence-based interventions, and training resources through print, email, social media, and our family of websites, such as cpwr.com, silica-safe.org, and stopconstructionfalls.com.
- Translate research findings into practical tools and materials (many available in English and Spanish) to encourage their widespread adoption and evaluate their uptake on construction job sites.
- Develop tools to support researchers' research-to-practice (r2p) activities.

What have we accomplished?

- Developed translational products — including Toolbox Talks, infographics, and Hazard Alerts — and distributed more than 800,000 copies in print to workers and contractors and our websites recorded thousands of additional downloads.
- Tracked and disseminated data and research findings from our Data Center on high-priority topics such as falls, MSDs, and heat fatalities. The findings are cited in industry publications such as ISHN and Safety + Health Magazine.
- Expanded the Best Built Plans program resources, which help contractors prevent injuries while staying productive and profitable. New material includes a mobile app, a video on how contractors can use the resources, and comprehensive ergonomics training modules for workers.
- Addressed fall hazards as a lead partner in the National Safety Falls Stand-Down, including a strong social media campaign and video on ladder safety.
- Developed a training program to build awareness of opioids and help stakeholders understand and cope with opioid use disorders.

What's next?

- Launch thirteen research projects covering ergonomics, falls, safety climate, isocyanates, nanomaterials, exoskeletons, women in construction, and more training programs, and peer advocacy and support.
- Evaluate the use of Best Built Plans and other r2p programs and products and make address work-related risk factors that contribute to opioid use disorder through communications research, evaluation of changes needed to increase use. Fund Small Studies designed to test safety, health, and well-being impacts of new technologies.

At-A-Glance

CPWR is dedicated to reducing injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the construction industry through training, research, and service programs. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Spotlight:

Toolbox Talk:

Infographic:

Translation: What should you do if you hear THUNDER?

Hazard Alert: