

The upcoming Safety Stand-Down provides a great opportunity to bring the topic of safety to the forefront and ensure that it continues to be properly addressed year-round.

Standing Safe and STRONG

BY TOM SCHLAFLY

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, members of the construction industry have participated in OSHA's (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) Safety Stand-Down.

The Stand-Down is a voluntary event for employers and employees to talk directly about safety, including fall hazards and fall protection. While it is intended primarily for those working on job sites, fabricators and others on the shop/manufacturing side of the steel industry can also use the event to present a current safety issue, review their safety procedures or recognize employees for exemplary safety practices.

The Safety Stand-Down began in 2014, shortly after the Fall Prevention Campaign was launched to reduce the number of accidents from falls on construction sites (see *The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction: Final Report on the 2016 Safety Stand-Down* at www.osha.gov/stopfallsstanddown/2016report.pdf). OSHA has described the event as a "tremendous success" that reaches an estimated five million workers in the U.S. and around the world.

"The Cianbro Companies participate each year in the annual OSHA Safety Stand-Down program regarding fall hazards and fall protection," says Jack Klimp, vice president and general manager of Cianbro Fabrication and Coating Corporation (an AISC member and certified fabricator). "For the past several years, this training has been completed in conjunction with our National Safety Week activities. On each day of the week, we present or bring in speakers to address a broad range of shop and field hazards, as well as hazards and safety tips for the home and family."

This year, the Safety Stand-Down will take place May 7-11. OSHA is partnering with many key groups to assist with this effort, and the Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA)

and Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT) also promote the Stand-Down. Companies wishing to participate may contact their OSHA Regional Stand-Down Coordinator for help in planning an event. Possible events could include a toolbox talk, safety equipment inspections and/or developing rescue plans. The Stand-Down page on OSHA's site has resources including fall safety videos, a fall hazards quiz and handouts on safety-related topics, as well as a certificate of participation that can be downloaded during the week of the Stand-Down. You can find out more at www.osha.gov/stopfallsstanddown. Be safe out there! ■

And for a look at the effects of the current presidential administration on OSHA regulations, check out Session O1 "The First Trump Year—The Effect of the Administration on Industry Labor" at NASCC: The Steel Conference, taking place April 11-13 in Baltimore. Learn more about the conference at www.aisc.org/nascc.

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