



# SAFETY NEWSLINE

Associated Builders & Contractors' Monthly Safety Bulletin

Western Washington

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## 2010 STEP Applications Are In the Mail

The new 2010 STEP applications were sent to all ABC of Western Washington Retro and contractor members the second week of January. The deadline to return the completed submittal form to ABC of Western Washington is March 5, 2010. Send all completed forms to ABC of Western Washington. Do not send any STEP forms directly to ABC National. Completion of the STEP form is a requirement for all ABC Retro members.

There have been some changes to the 2010 STEP application. For 2010, participants at all levels must submit their 2009 OSHA 300A form. There are going to be five levels of recognition starting this year. They are bronze, silver, gold, platinum and diamond. The bronze, silver and gold categories are free. There is a fee attached to both platinum and diamond.

For gold recognition, there is now an incident rate qualification just as there has been for the platinum participants. The incident rates are located in the chart on page 7 of the STEP booklet.

There are also changes for platinum applicants. Platinum applicants will now also have to have a minimum Experience Modification Rate (EMR) rate in addition to the minimum incident rate. Also for 2010 you will submit a copy of your 2009 OSHA 300 log, with the employees names removed. There is no longer a requirement for your insurer's statement. New this year is a size differential. If you have fewer than 100 employees, you may use a three year average for your incident rate. The one year wait to qualify for platinum has been dropped. In other words, if you meet the qualifications, you can apply at any time. You no longer need to have received gold or platinum level the prior year.

Beginning in 2010 there will be a new STEP level, Diamond. Because STEP diamond is a new category, participation in 2010 is by invitation only. There are additional requirements above platinum level that the applicant must meet.

If you are applying for the platinum award, send all the paperwork, including your check made payable to ABC of Western Washington. The ABC National Safety Committee will review all platinum applications. For 2010, ABC National will choose those companies who meet the diamond criteria and invite them to participate at that level. Applicants who have either fatalities or willful violations will not be eligible for STEP platinum or diamond. Platinum and diamond recipients will comprise the group from which ABC National will select its National Excellence in Safety Award winners. Platinum and diamond level winners will receive special recognition in ABC and non-ABC publications.

If you have not yet received your STEP form, please call **Abby Binion** or **Ann Jarvis** at (800) 640-7789, (425) 646-8000 or e-mail [ann@abcwestwa.org](mailto:ann@abcwestwa.org) for a copy.

**Associated Builders  
& Contractors of  
Western Washington**

399 114th Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
Phone: 800.640.7789  
Fax: 425.455.5701

Website: [www.abcwestwa.org](http://www.abcwestwa.org)

## First Phase of Construction Crane Certification Effective as of January 1, 2010



The first phase of the construction crane certification program and crane operator qualifications, as outlined in RCW 49.17.400 through 440, has been adopted and was effective January 1, 2010.

This rule requires that all cranes used for construction work must be certified and proof load tested annually by an accredited crane certifier recognized by the department of labor and industries. There are exemptions for this rule and they are located in WAC 296-155-52900(2).

In addition, this rule requires that all crane operators have a valid crane operator certificate, for the type of crane to be operated, issued by a crane operator testing organization accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency.

The applicable sections for this rule are WAC 296-155-529 through WAC 296-155-53300. If you have any questions relating to this rule you may contact Larry Markee at (360) 902-4553 or e-mail at [mala235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:mala235@lni.wa.gov).

Visit the L&I construction crane page for more information about construction crane requirements: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/LicensingReq/ConstructionCranes/default.asp>.

## Fatality Narrative: Foreman Killed When Collapsing Steel Columns Knock Over Boom Lift

**Industry:** Commercial and institutional building construction

**Occupation:** Foreman

**Task:** Working from boom lift preparing to weld roof truss

**Type of Incident:** Struck by/Machine-related/Fall

On June 20, 2008, a crew foreman working from an elevated boom lift died when two steel columns tipped over, striking the lift and knocking it over. The 34-year-old foreman worked for 15 years for a company that constructs commercial and industrial buildings. He was supervising a steel erection crew at a job site where a manufacturing facility was being built. The crew was erecting a line of 40-foot tall columns equipped with crane rail sections and upper girders. At the time of the incident the victim was working from the basket of a raised boom lift waiting for a crane operator to set a steel roof truss so that he could weld it in place. Two of the columns and the attached crane rails and girders tipped over, hitting the victim's boom lift, knocking it to the concrete floor. The victim sustained head injuries and died at the scene. An investigation determined that no bracing or guying was used to support the collapsed column and crane rail structure.

### Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

! Obtain and follow an engineer's recommendations for temporarily guying and bracing structural steel members.

! All columns must be anchored by four bolts.

! Plumbing-up equipment must be installed in conjunction with the steel erection process to ensure the stability of the structure.

! Train steel erection crew leads in proper safety procedures.

- Consult an engineer for instruction on proper methods for installation of fabricated structural steel members.

- Develop a steel erection plan and have it reviewed by a competent person or an engineer.

*State Wide Statistics: This was the 32nd out of 70 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2008, and was the 6th out of 18 construction-related fatalities.*

*~Department of Labor & Industries, SHARP - Research for Safe Work*

### Website of the Month



This is the EPA website for the new stormwater run off requirements for construction effective 2/1/10:  
<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/construction/>

## L&I's Anti-fraud and Compliance Program Saves \$128 Million, Up 3 Percent from a Year Earlier

The fight against fraud in the workers' compensation system brought in \$128 million last year, according to a new report from the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I).

The total includes recoveries of payments made as a result of fraud, as well as inadvertent overpayments to injured workers and health-care providers. The collection amount also includes payments from employers for delinquent or falsely reported premiums.

The fraud program's collections in fiscal year 2009 increased by 3 percent over the previous year.

In addition, L&I avoided an estimated \$5.9 million in future costs by uncovering and stopping fraudulent payments.

"Our results show that we continue to get better at catching fraud and abuse," said Carl Hammersburg, manager of L&I's Fraud Prevention and Compliance Program. "Each year we improve our ability to share data and analyze it, which means we can catch problems sooner."

L&I compares internal and external data while reviewing up to 2,000 claims each month that have been flagged as potentially fraudulent. As one example of increasing productivity, in 2009 the agency identified 56 percent more overpayments and questionable billings to health-care and vocational providers compared to the previous year.

L&I also referred 25 fraud cases for criminal prosecution, including 18 workers, four employers, and three health-care providers — with a 100 percent success rate.

In one fraud case, an anonymous tip led L&I to a Snohomish County man who had returned to work using his son's Social Security number. At the same time, the man was collecting a pension for job-related injuries that supposedly prevented employment. He was sentenced to four months with work release and ordered to repay \$60,000.

Another successful criminal case involved a Spokane painting contractor who must repay \$212,000 in premiums and penalties. He was guilty of false reporting and cash payment of wages to avoid paying workers' compensation premiums.

The annual report, *Targeting Fraud and Abuse*, shows that Fraud Prevention and Compliance brings in about \$8 for every dollar spent on preventing fraud and improving employer compliance with reporting requirements.

L&I's fraud Website, [www.Fraud.Lni.wa.gov](http://www.Fraud.Lni.wa.gov), includes an online form for reporting fraud. Anyone who suspects fraud may also call L&I's fraud hotline at (888) 811-5974.

### **Training on Demand**

Did you know that ABC offers company-specific training? We can set up training at your office or ours on a wide variety of topics with one of our professional safety trainers. For more information, contact ABC's Vice President of Safety & Education **Ann Jarvis** at 800.640.7789.

## Children and Medicine: Six Things You Should Never Do

- Never call medicine "candy."
- Never take your own medicine in the presence of children too young to understand what you are doing.
- Never leave children alone with medicine. If you are about to give it and the phone rings or you are otherwise distracted, take it with you.
- Never store drugs, chemicals and personal care products in bottles, bowls, or containers that children associate with food.
- Never give medicine in the dark.
- Never allow small children to administer their own medication or to give it to other family members, even with adult supervision.

Note: The second most common place where children are accidentally poisoned by medicine is at their grandparents house. So, make sure your parents know about these essential "nevers" too.

~Richard Hawk and Company



There are advantages to becoming a Safety Alliance member - such as a possible "pass" on inspections from the Dept. of L&I! Sign up today for 2010. Contact Vice President of Safety & Education **Ann Jarvis** at [ann@abcwestwa.org](mailto:ann@abcwestwa.org), 800.640.7789 or 425.646.8000 to find out more.

## **ABC Safety and Workers' Comp Classes**

### ★ FEBRUARY 2010

- 2/3 Workers' Comp Breakfast: Pre-Hire Process  
7:30 - 9:00 am, ABC, Bellevue
- 2/11 Safety Seminar: Certified Flagger Training  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm, ABC, Bellevue
- 2/17 Safety Seminar: Lead/Silica/Asbestos Awareness  
1:00 - 5:00 pm, La Quinta Inn, Tacoma
- 2/23 Safety Seminar: OSHA 10-Hour  
7:30 am - 6:30 pm, ABC, Bellevue
- 2/23 Safety Committee Meeting  
12:00 - 2:00 pm, Enterprise Fleet Management, Renton
- 2/25 Safety Seminar: Ladder Training  
1:00 - 5:00 pm, Baron Suites, Bellingham

### **Training Around Town**

Check out the full ABC training calendar at [www.abcwestwa.org](http://www.abcwestwa.org). Training at your office or ours is also available through the **ABC Training On Demand Program**. Contact Ann Jarvis at (800) 640-7789 to schedule the training you need at your convenience.

The Evergreen Safety Council has training classes listed on their website: <http://www.esc.org/courses.html>

CSTOP LLC has various safety training available - email [exec@cstop.org](mailto:exec@cstop.org) for the schedule.

Simpson Strong Tie has training workshops listed on their website: [www.strongtie.com/fr\\_contractor.html](http://www.strongtie.com/fr_contractor.html)

Overton Safety Training has operator safety training in Washington and Oregon listed on their website: [www.overtonsafety.com](http://www.overtonsafety.com) or call toll-free (866) 531-0403.

# Safety Fast Fax Form



The ABC Resource Center has many items to aid you in running a safe business. Here are a few we've highlighted this month. All items are available **free** (unless otherwise noted) to ABC members as a benefit of membership. Just check the items you'd like to receive, and fax this page to ABC at (425) 455-5701.

**ABC Safety Alliance**

I would like my company to be recognized for its safety program. Please send me an ABC Safety Alliance application for 2010.

**Accident Prevention Program (APP)**

Revised, now available on CD! Contains over 60 sections to assist you in making sure your APP meets current L&I standards. Please contact Abby Binion at (800) 640-7789 to request a copy.

**All-in-One Posters**

All-In-One Posters available:  
 Please send me \_\_\_ English All-in-One posters @ \$20.00 each.  
 Please send me \_\_\_ Spanish All-in-One posters @ \$20.00 each.

**Safety Videos**

Free two-week rentals for ABC members! Contact Kim at (800) 640-7789 for a full video library.\*

**VHS: Asbestos in Construction**, Coastal Safety Environmental, 2000 - 26 minutes.

**VHS: Confined Space Atmospheric Testing**, Coastal Safety Environmental, 1992 - 17 minutes.

**VHS: Save Your Breath - Silicosis Awareness**, Oregon/SW Washington Cement Masons Apprenticeship Program, 1999 - 20 minutes.

**DVD: Stretch & Flex: A Program to Reduce WMSDs**, WA Department of Labor & Industries, Integrity Safety Services, 2009 - 45 minutes.

*\*Spanish language videos available too! A dozen safety videos available for your Spanish-speaking employees. Contact Kim Trautman at (800) 640-7789 for more information.*

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_



Western Washington

### **Associated Builders & Contractors of Western Washington**

399 114th Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Phone: 425.646.8000 or 800.640.7789

Fax: 425.455.5701

E-mail: [news@abcwestwa.org](mailto:news@abcwestwa.org)

**Send us your news! Email us at [news@abcwestwa.org](mailto:news@abcwestwa.org).**