

Fall Prevention: Washington University Helps Union Workers

by KATELYN EISENBERG, MSOT/S 2014
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
Program of Occupational Therapy

The national Campaign to Prevent Construction Falls was launched on April 26, 2012 and recently announced its second year. Falls from heights account for one-third of fatalities in the construction industry with 459 fatal falls in the past two years, including eight in the St. Louis area.

The aims of this collaborative campaign are to raise awareness about falls from heights and provide Contractors and Craftspeople with resources to help them prevent falls. These resources include posters, stickers, pamphlets, toolbox talks, checklists, videos, and much more. Campaign materials suggest every worker should plan ahead to get the job done safely, provide the right equipment, and train everyone to use the equipment safely. Through this 3-step process, all workers can ensure they are working safely every day for every task. Free copies of materials can be accessed at the Campaign's Website, www.stopconstructionfalls.com.

With this second year of the Campaign, our aim is to disperse materials among Union Workers and bring fall safety to the attention of workers in the St. Louis area. Currently, we are working towards this goal in many ways. Presentations are being given at the local Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Programs and local Union Meetings to raise awareness among the Unions.

These presentations introduce the Campaign to the Union Workers and to provide Members with Campaign materials. Facebook is also being used to reach workers about the Campaign. You can find the Facebook page by

searching for "Stop Construction Falls." This page is used to update its followers weekly with fall safety tips and recent news about the Campaign.

So, what can you do? There are many ways to become involved in the Campaign. Visit the Website and check out the information and materials that are free for your use. You can visit and follow the Facebook page to receive weekly tips and facts and stay up to date on the latest Campaign news.

Lastly, you can download Campaign materials and give them to friends, co-workers, and employers.

We need your help in order to reduce the number of fatal falls in construction. The Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction is designed for the worker and can help save lives. Together, we can make sure that each worker comes home to his or her family every night.

