

OSHA Holds 'Stand-Down' to Prevent Georgia Construction Accidents

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

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In an effort to reduce [construction accidents](#), OSHA's Southeast Region partnered with local contractors and federal, state and local agencies across Georgia to hold an early-morning, one-hour safety "stand-down" on November 9. The voluntary work stoppage focused on construction site injuries and fatalities caused by workers being struck by vehicles or falling objects. "Struck by accidents" are one of the leading causes of injuries and deaths on construction sites.

The partnership, called the "Georgia Struck-By Alliance," held the voluntary work stoppage and workplace safety meeting from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. 1,170 construction work zones with a total of 8,056 employees took part in the stand-down. During the stand-down, work zone safety training was conducted that focused on how to prevent workers being struck by construction materials and vehicles.

Most Fatal Construction Accidents Involve Workers Struck by Heavy Equipment

The main purpose of the stand-down was to raise workers' awareness that [crane and heavy equipment accidents](#) are a leading cause of construction fatalities.

"We want to raise the ability of employees to identify and eliminate work-related hazards by emphasizing to them that approximately 75 percent of struck-by fatalities involve heavy equipment, such as trucks or cranes," said OSHA Southeast regional administrator Cindy Coe.

In addition to its "Georgia Struck-By Alliance," OSHA operates a number of workplace safety initiatives through its Alliance Program. Working with unions, trade and professional associations, businesses, educational institutions, and other groups. OSHA develops effective training tools and resources to promote worker safety and health.

The Georgia Struck-By Alliance consists of government agencies and groups and members of the construction industry. Members include:

- OSHA's Southeast Region
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- Georgia Power
- Georgia Tech Research Institute
- Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia
- Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division

- Associated General Contractors of America Georgia Branch
- Georgia Highways Contractors Association
- Georgia Utility Contractors Association
- 3M Visibility and Insulations Solutions
- Lamar Signs

"This alliance has taken the initiative and shown leadership with organizing and conducting this safety stand-down industry-wide as well as throughout Georgia to emphasize the importance of employees' safety in work zones," said Coe.

Sources:

- OSHA Region 4 News Release, "[US Labor Department's OSHA announces safety stand-down at Georgia construction sites on Tuesday, Nov. 9, to focus on struck-by hazards,](#)" November 5, 2010
- DOL News Brief, "OSHA Safety "Stand-Down" at 1,170 Construction Sites in Georgia," November 10, 2010