

# Highway Worker Safety Program

Zurich, in alliance with the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), has developed a program designed to help mitigate exposures that contribute to employee injuries and fatalities while working on roadways.

## The challenge

Street, road and highway construction is dangerous work. On any construction site, highway workers risk potential injury or even death. The safety of construction workers depends on both the organization and individual's knowledge of the hazards involved with and the effective use of safe highway work zone practices.

Consider the following statistics:

- Each year, more than 100 workers are killed and over 20,000 are injured in the highway and street construction industry <sup>1</sup>
- The risk of death is two to four times greater for highway workers than in other areas of building and construction <sup>2</sup>
- In 2007, one highway work zone fatality occurred every 10 hours (2.3 a day) and one injury occurred every 13 minutes (110 a day) <sup>3</sup>

The majority of these injuries and fatalities are caused by four basic hazards: Falls, struck bys, caught in between and electrocutions. These exposures are called the Focus Four Hazards because they account for approximately 79 percent of construction industry fatalities. <sup>2</sup>

In addition, highway construction workers may also be exposed to the risk of soft tissue injuries that affect the muscles, tendons, ligaments or nerves. Although most of these soft tissue injuries are not fatal, they can create years of pain and suffering for workers and their families.

## The solution

Zurich Services Corporation, in alliance with the AGC, has developed a program designed to increase hazard awareness and demonstrate the appropriate control measures to address highway worker safety exposures.

This program focuses on preventing the leading causes of highway worker fatalities (Focus Four) and serious soft tissue injuries (Plus One). We call this the Focus Four Plus One concept.

Injuries and fatalities associated with the Focus Four Plus One are preventable and typically occur when highway work safety standards are not followed.

Our program demonstrates current safety standards and helps enable organizations to properly plan and prevent common hazards, while educating employees in highway work zone safety.

Source: 1 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Building Safer Highway Work Zones: Measures to Prevent Worker Injuries from Vehicles and Equipment

2 Bureau of Labor Statistics

3 Federal Highway Administration Work Zone Safety Fact Sheet

## Benefits

- Helps to decrease incident rates for both lost time and OSHA recordable injuries
- Assists in meeting state department of transportation (DOT) requirements for bidding and performing roadway work
- Aids in creating safer work zones for public owners such as municipalities, colleges and state DOTs
- Helps protect workers by increasing awareness and the public by increasing safety controls in highway work zones

## Program details

Our highway worker safety program is designed for all levels of an organization including employees, field supervision and project management personnel. Organizations involved in highway, street and road construction, utility installation, roadway maintenance and landscaping will yield the most benefit.

The program consists of eight interactive modules that address street, road and highway work including:

- Asphalt paving
- Bridge work
- Concrete paving
- Demolition work
- Earthwork and grading operations
- Short-term and mobile operations
- Traffic control
- Utility and drainage work

Modules can be presented either individually or in any combination. These modules are supplemented with an introduction to the Focus Four Plus One concept, a hierarchy of safety controls, more than 70 minutes of video, trainer/trainee presentation materials, resource guides, toolbox topics and module quizzes.

When coupled with Zurich's industry experience and consultative risk engineering services, this program provides an exceptional resource for contractors to develop or further enhance their existing highway worker safety program.

## For more information

For more information on Zurich's highway worker safety program, please contact your risk engineering account coordinator.

## Additional resources

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)  
2300 Wilson Blvd, Suite 400  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Phone: (703) 548-3118  
[www.agc.org](http://www.agc.org)

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Risk Engineering



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