

# “The CHASE REPORT”

April 2023, Vol 5

An AKOSH Consultation and Training Newsletter

## The Chief's Corner

Hello CHASE participants. Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly newsletter. May is *National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction*. This event takes place May 1-5, 2023.



### What is a Safety Stand-Down?

A Safety Stand-Down is a voluntary event for employers to talk directly to employees about safety. Any workplace can hold a stand-down by taking a break to

focus on "Fall Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of "Fall Prevention". Companies not exposed to fall hazards, can use this opportunity to have a conversation with employees about the other job hazards, protective methods, and the company's safety policies and goals.

### Who Can Participate?

Anyone who wants to prevent hazards in the workplace can participate in the Stand-Down. In past years, participants included commercial construction companies of all sizes, residential construction contractors, sub- and independent contractors, highway construction companies, general industry employers, unions, employer's trade associations, institutes, and employee interest organizations.

### How to Conduct a Safety Stand-Down

Companies can conduct a Safety Stand-Down by taking a break to have a toolbox talk or another safety activity such as conducting safety equipment inspections, developing rescue plans, or discussing job specific hazards. Managers are encouraged to plan a stand-down that works best for their workplace.

Remember NO SAFETY SHORTCUTS—EVER.



**Elaine Banda**, Chief of Consultation and Training

### Share Your Story With OSHA

If you want to share information with OSHA on your Safety Stand-Down, Fall Prevention Programs or suggestions on how we can improve future initiatives like this, please send your email to [oshastanddown@dol.gov](mailto:oshastanddown@dol.gov). Also share your Stand-Down story on social media, with the hashtag: *#StandDown4Safety*.

### Words from CHASE Coordinator, Michael Flint

The construction industry ranks second highest in suicide rates among major industries. Construction is a male dominated industry in which toughness and strength are valued and seeking help for mental health concerns can be seen as a weakness. Leadership can make a life saving difference by integrating resources and information into already existing key areas. Some examples are:

- Human Resources: recruitment, hiring, training etc.
- Employee Benefits: engage in EAP campaigns to increase utilization
- Safety and Health: safety orientations/meetings, stand-downs, etc.

Creating a culture of caring that promotes psychological safety by showing concerns and empathy for workers and their families reinforces a respectful workplace culture free from harassment, discrimination, bullying or inappropriate teasing, and harsh judgement by peers.

**Michael Flint** (he/him/they/them)  
CHASE Coordinator



## CHASE Spotlight



Each quarterly newsletter will spotlight one CHASE Partner. The idea is to highlight a hot topic or company that provides critical infrastructure to our state. As the CHASE program continues to grow, AKOSH Consultation expects to highlight other partners that work with our program, as well as various associations. This quarter we are highlighting **National Work Zone Awareness Week**



In 2020, 857 people were killed in 774 fatal work zone crashes. This annual event encourages drivers to slow down and stay focused while approaching and passing through a roadway work zone. This year's theme is "You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us."

Outreach, and educational materials are available at [nwzaw.org](http://nwzaw.org), but here are a few highlights:

- National Kickoff Event: Will be [livestreamed](#) from Missouri on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 11 AM ET. Note: Livestream link will be added to page as the date nears.
- Social Media Storm: Organizations, companies, institutions, and individuals are asked to share messages and use hashtags #NWZAW and #WorkZoneSafety on Thursday, April 20, 2023.
- [Promotion Guide](#) and [Planning Guide](#)
- [Poster](#)
- Social media images ([here](#) and [here](#))

## National Stand-By to Prevent Struck-By Incidents:

Struck-by hazards are present on nearly every job site, and include things like falling and flying objects, vehicles and heavy equipment, and swing hazards from cranes. These incidents are the number one cause of nonfatal injuries in construction and the leading cause of death among heavy and civil construction workers, but they can be avoided by careful planning, training, and the use of controls. The NORA Construction Sector Council sponsors this annual event during NWZAW to help employers talk directly to employees about these hazards and provide instruction for preventing incidents. Any workplace can hold a stand-down by taking a break to focus on "Struck-by Hazards" and reinforcing the importance of training and prevention.

Outreach and educational materials are available [here](#) but here are a few highlights:

- Kickoff Webinar: Monday, April 17, 2023 @ 2 PM ET. Register [here](#). (Previous videos are available [here](#).)
- Save the Date: [PDF](#) or [PNG](#)
- Infographic (English [PDF](#) & [JPEG](#); Spanish [PDF](#) & [JPEG](#))
- Flyer with Sample Agenda: [What is the Struck-by Stand-Down](#)
- New Paper: [Struck-by Hazards, Barriers, and Opportunities in the Construction Industry — 2022 Survey Results](#)



## Closing Remarks from Chief Banda



Remember, "The Public is Watching You."  
Stay safe everyone!