OSHA, Safety, and the Bottom Line
By Bill Walker, MSOS, CPEA

Introduction – Safety and the Bottom Line

Why everyone is in business

Service to the residential building industry – A 20 year plus heritage, and mission of Builders Mutual

What we see in our industry

Losses & Exposures - what hurts workers and the public

Increased insurance costs

Reduced morale and productivity

Damage to corporate reputation

NOTES:
OSHA, Safety, and the Bottom Line

Risk and Enterprise Risk Management

- Risk defined
- Application of the ERM process
  - Identification
  - Characterization
  - Control
  - Administration

Culture of safety

- Where OSHA fits in to the equation
  - Our relationship with NC OSHA
  - Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry
  - Interim Fall Protection Requirements for Residential Construction (OPN 109A)
  - Volunteer to work with them – amazing things happen

NOTES:
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Develop best practices, beyond what OSHA requires

- Develop your own standards – be the best!
- Look for safety resources

- Your insurance carrier(s)
- HBAs – local, state, & NAHB
- OSHA Bureau of Consultative Services

New Equipment & Assembly Methods - what we have found that works

- Wall Walker – scaffolds to get workers off of the top plates
- Safety Boot – guards open stairs & landings
- Harness systems designed for residential work – designed for pitched roof work

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OSHA, Safety, and the Bottom Line

Take a look at behavioral-based safety

- Proven Benefits
- Leadership
- Safety Culture
- Employee Engagement

A positive outcome – safe workplace and a better bottom line

- Reduced worker injuries
- Increased productivity
- Reduced liability exposures
- Avoid OSHA fines
- No “bad press” from a bad injury or fatality
- Cleaner sites – quicker sales
- You earn a good corporate “we really care” reputation

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Conclusion – steps to improving your bottom line

- You have an ethical responsibility to provide a safe work environment
- Develop a culture of safety
- Always, always, look for better and safer ways to work
- All injuries are preventable
- Conduct frequent and regular inspections of your jobsites, promptly correcting unsafe conditions
- Never allow work to be done unsafely – working safely must be a steadfast condition of employment and subcontractor’s contracts
- Train your employees to work safely
- Expect the best from your employees and subcontractors
- Reward good and correct unacceptable behaviors
- Good safety is good business - A culture of safety will make your company more profitable – adding to the bottom line!
OSHA, Safety, and the Bottom Line

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References:

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