

**North Carolina Department of Labor
Division of Occupational Safety and Health**

Raleigh, NC

Field Information System

Operational Procedure Notice 123C

Subject: North Carolina Special Emphasis Program, Construction Activities.

A. Purpose.

This program establishes a North Carolina Special Emphasis Program (SEP) to decrease fatalities related to the construction industry (SIC 1500 - 1799). This effort will include compliance inspections, consultative activity, education and training and site specific inspection targeting.

B. Scope.

Construction includes any activity performed by employers who fall under the SICs 1500 - 1799. While compliance, consultation and education and training efforts will continue state-wide, eight counties are included in the Special Emphasis Program because they have experienced more than one fatality in construction activities during federal fiscal years 2000 – 2004 and/or have not remained fatality free for at least two Federal Fiscal years in a row. The counties included in the initial program were: Mecklenburg, Rowan, Wake, Davidson and Robeson. Since the initial selection, Cabarrus, Dare, Guildford, Iredell, and Forsyth counties have been added and Robeson and Davidson counties have been deleted. As additional data becomes available other counties will be selected for inclusion into this program.

C. Selection, Removal Criteria.

The following criteria will be used to add or delete counties from the Special Emphasis Program:

1. Counties will be added to the Special Emphasis Program where there are multiple incidents that result in construction fatalities. (*A county should not be added when one incident occurs resulting in two or more fatalities. Example, two fatalities from water tower collapse in Granville County on 10/30/02.*)
2. Counties will remain on the SEP list for at least three consecutive federal fiscal years. The construction SEP team (Team) will conduct an annual review to add or remove counties from the SEP list on or before June 15th of each federal fiscal year, to decide which counties will be added or removed from the SEP list. The Team will submit their recommendations to the leadership team for approval before the beginning of a new federal fiscal year so that any recommended changes can be incorporated in the annual strategic management plan.
3. Counties will be removed from the SEP list when zero construction fatalities have occurred during two consecutive federal fiscal years. At this point, the Team will recommend to the leadership team that the county be removed from the SEP list.
4. The SEP construction list is limited to no more than ten counties per fiscal year.

D. Action.

This Operational Procedure Notice provides for special emphasis inspections in accordance with NCGS 95-136.1(b)(3) due to a high rate of construction work related deaths.

E. Background.

North Carolina has experienced a significant increase in construction activity during the past ten years with a corresponding increase in fatalities for this industry. Construction fatalities accounted for 41.9% of all fatalities in North Carolina in federal fiscal year 2004. The eight counties that experienced multiple fatalities in the state accounted for 59% of all construction fatalities and two counties, Wake and Mecklenburg, accounted for 35% of the construction fatalities in the state for the same time period.

F. Training and Consultative Activity.

The Bureaus of Education, Training and Technical Assistance (ETTA) and Consultative Services will provide training and consultative efforts in support of this SEP.

G. Compliance Inspection Activity.

Each district office will conduct inspections in support of this SEP.

1. Scheduling.

- a. PSIM will manage a list of construction sites likely to be covered by this special emphasis program. Construction assignments for the counties covered by this special emphasis program will be generated from this list.
- b. The randomly selected construction sites for inspection under this SEP will be distributed by district supervisors.

2. Referrals.

- a. In consideration of the high injury and fatality rate of construction activities, any serious hazards observed will be investigated immediately by the compliance officer who observes the activity, after consulting with their supervisor.
- b. Because of the various municipality and county reporting requirements throughout the state, the location of active construction sites are often not readily available to the OSH Division. Therefore, when a CSHO observes or receives information regarding an active construction site, the CSHO and their supervisor will determine if the site should be immediately inspected or added to the assignment list. Such determination will be based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- The resources available for inspecting the site,
- The size of the operation,
- The prior history of the general contractor, if known,
- The likelihood that the job will be completed before it can be randomly selected for inspection

c The compliance bureau chiefs should ensure that a higher percentage of the construction sites inspected are in the counties included in this SEP.

d The CSHO will follow the guidance in the most current revision of OPN 96, *Focused Inspections in Construction*, when conducting any construction inspections throughout the state.

H. IMIS Coding.

The OSHA-1 form for all inspections conducted in the targeted counties as a result of this SEP will be coded as “STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITY” (item25f) and marked “CONSTRUCTION SEP”.

I. Applicable Standards.

All applicable standards apply, including standards contained in 29 CFR 1926, 29 CFR 1910 and NCGS 95.129 (1), commonly referred to as the “General Duty Clause.”

J. Evaluation of Program.

The bureau chiefs will submit to the assistant director at least monthly an evaluation report to include at least the following:

1. Bureau Chiefs of Compliance.
 - a. Number of inspections.
 - b. Number of citations issued.
 - c. Impact on number of fatalities in construction activities.
 - d. Standards cited.
 - e. Number of safety and health programs improved or implemented.
 - f. Overall assessment of this special emphasis program, including impact on other Bureau activities, and the goal of eliminating hazards associated with construction.
2. Bureau Chief of Consultative Services.
 - a. Description of outreach efforts implemented.
 - b. Number of consultative visits conducted.
 - c. Types of hazards observed.
 - d. Number of safety and health programs improved or implemented.
3. Bureau Chief of ETTA.

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- a. Description of outreach efforts implemented.
- b. Assessment of the impact of outreach efforts.
- c. Number of training sessions conducted.
- d. Number of employers and employees affected.
- e. Standard promulgation recommendations.
- f. Number of safety and health programs improved or implemented.

4. Bureau Chief of Planning, Statistics and Information Management.

- a. Results of construction targeting efforts.

K. Expiration.

This SEP is effective on the date of signature. It will remain in effect until revised or canceled by the director.

Signed on Original

Tom Hayes
Compliance Bureau Chief

Signed on Original

Allen McNeely
Director

3/8/2005
Date of Signature