



Complacency in Construction

Numb to the Hazards - It won't happen to me

We hear it time and time again, "I've been doing this for ___ years and never had an issue." Our workforce has become complacent with risk, thinking that it won't happen to them; when in all likelihood this mindset puts them more at risk for injury. In the article, "Managing Complacency in Construction" by Peter Furst he notes that Complacency is a cultural issue as construction and other industries tend to reward production over safety and innovation. ORCIG encourages you to continuously strive to better your organization by looking for and identifying leading indicators of complacency. Some tips one could use to help combat complacency are noted below. The referenced article also talks about identifying signs of complacency and provides further insight into the matter. Should you need further assistance with combatting complacency or implementing creating ways to keep workers engaged and building your organization, feel free to contact your ORCIG Safety Specialist.

ORCIG Tips to beat complacency:

- Think of training outside the normal
- Stage training which requires workers to follow the set procedure established by the company.
Any deviation from the procedure should result in a failure for the staged operation.
- Stage scenarios where workers can practice what they have been trained to do.
Example: Rescuing someone hanging in a fall harness 2 stories up
- Provide incentives for suggestions on new methods or equipment to perform a task which makes it safer and more efficient.

References:

Furst, Peter. (2017). "Managing Complacency in Construction."

Retrieved from: <https://www.irmi.com/articles/expert-commentary/managing-complacency-in-construction>

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