



SAFETYTIMES

A Bi-Monthly Publication distributed by the Workers' Comp Trust
P.O. Box 8070, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 • (707) 542-9502 • www.ncbesafety.com

ROUTING SLIP

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Issue 19, Number 4 North Coast Builders Exchange March-April 2007

A Workers' Comp Success Story ~ THIESSEN HOMES

An Educated Safety Program *Is a smart company move*

Thiessen Homes is the company responsible for the design build project that has created a downtown district for the town of Windsor. Orrin Thiessen is the General Contractor and a General Partner with Windsor Town Green L.P. that is responsible for the look and function of the bustling businesses and residents that now call Windsor home.

In relatively few years this company has embraced a new trend towards urbanism that promotes a pedestrian friendly and small business environment. Although Thiessen Homes has a total of 13 employees, they work closely with as many as 40 sub-contractors responsible for all phases of the downtown construction project.

Project and Safety Coordinator Carrie Whittier is the assistant to veteran Project Manager John Demartini who oversees customer service for the many facets of the massive construction project. His duties include being detail oriented ensuring the correct trim work is applied along with directing site preparation needed to accomplish a timely production schedule. While Demartini has

years of construction experience, Carrie is a relative newcomer to the construction business.

With only three years in the company Carrie has spent half of that time in charge of the Safety program. Her administrative skills are what drew the attention of Project General Manager Ken Cohan as he looked to find someone capable of monitoring the various requirements that go into a safety program.

According to Carrie, "It took very little time to realize there was much more to the safety program than monitoring paperwork. Ken Cohan was enthusiastic to allow me to attend the NCBE Workers' Comp Trust 10-hour Cal OSHA training class and that class gave me a much deeper understanding of exactly what the job required. "Since attending the class I have been able to implement a much more formal approach to our safety program. I have also become more aware of the need for ongoing safety training to keep up with the annual changes in safety laws and regulations."

Having experienced supervisors that recognize the importance of safety is a great benefit to any organization. Having well trained support can mean the difference between safety success and failure at the even the simplest levels. Carrie provides support in a variety of ways, including tackling the selection of relevant tailgate topics. "There is a vast amount of material available for tailgate topics. I find the topics that are relative to the type of work we are doing and the weather related topics that can affect our work. NCBE has a wealth of information that helped me to create a book I call "John's Infinite Supply of Tailgate Topics" that gives our supervisors relevant material for every aspect of our work."

Some of the sub-contractors working with Windsor Town Village are larger companies with their own safety programs in place. There are many more that are small to one-man subs and it is not uncommon for Carrie to advise those associates of safety requirements. On several occasions she has sent subs to NCBE to acquire safety training for their specific trade.



Panhandle Building, downtown Windsor

COMP CORNER



Hallie Fraser
Workers' Comp &
Safety Director

OSHA 300A Form- HAVE YOU POSTED IT YET?

If you haven't already posted your OSHA 300A form for the 2006 calendar year (and you have greater than 10 employees at anytime during the year), you need to get it posted. The 300A form is a yearly summary of injuries that is required by Cal/OSHA to be posted from February 1st through April 30th.

Review your OSHA 300 log (for the 2006 calendar year) for accuracy, correct any deficiencies, and total all the columns on your OSHA 300 log. Simply transfer the totals from the OSHA 300 Log to the appropriate lines on the 300A Summary. You must complete the OSHA form 300A Summary even if you had no work-related injuries or illnesses, just fill in zeros on the lines provided.

After ensuring the form is completely filled out then a company executive must certify that he or she has examined the Cal/OSHA Form 300 and that the information on the annual summary is correct and complete. A "company executive" is defined as: An owner of the company (this is required only if the company is a sole proprietorship or partnership); an officer of the corporation; the highest ranking company official working at the establishment; or the immediate supervisor of the highest

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 3





Trustee profile **Clay Green**

Our newest Trustee likes to collect CATS



Workers' Comp Trust's (WCT) newest trustee is Clay Green, president and owner of CATS-4-U, Inc. Understand that these are the construction industry Cats known by their formal name of "Caterpillar."

Clay hasn't always been so interested in CATS, but they were a part of his life at an early age having been raised in the Alexander Valley where his parents owned a vineyard. He graduated from Healdsburg High and attended UC Davis where he graduated with a BS in Agriculture Economics. He minored in Viticulture with the thought of someday working in the vineyard management business.

Several years prior to graduation Clay landed a job rehabbing old logging roads on a 3500-acre ranch near Jenner. He had become acquainted with a Mercury miner who offered to sell him a 1954 D-7 in return for payments and mining claim assessment work. That D-7 helped him to earn money with countless hours grading farm roads and other agricultural related work, but more than college money, it helped him make a career decision.

After graduation Clay decided to stick with the earthwork and he began collecting more machinery and eventually his interest became CATS-4-U. Today the company, with its seven employees, has expanded beyond agricultural work to provide grading, paving and more for commercial sites.

Their work can be found throughout the North Bay and includes many water-related projects for Western Water. A few notable Western Water projects include the sewer ponds at Monte Rio's Bohemian Grove, and water treatment pads in Solano County's American Canyon. When asked about a stand out job, Clay offered, "We put a lot of work into Point Reyes National Park creating a pond for the Red-legged frog."

CATS-4-U provides the heavy equipment and the operators for a wide collection of 25 or more Bulldozers, Excavators, Backhoes, graders and more. Although the company does provide equipment alone to its clients, according to Clay, "most of our work is done by our own operators. The volume of commercial work we do calls for



Clay Green

experience and a skilled set of workers, which is what we offer."

Clay has been a member of NCBE for close to 25 years and CATS-4-U has been a member company of WCT for the past 15 years. His new role as a WCT Trustee is his first venture into a leadership position. Of his new role, Clay said, "I'm interested in knowing more about how the program works. I have a real interest in statistics and being a Trustee gives me a close up look at the gears and wheels.

WCT has a lot of tools, including the Safety Times, a safety library and a professional staff. One of our key challenges for WCT is in member retention. We need to provide our existing members the importance of what the program offers, so that we don't lose members to a price war with competing insurers. We have seen it before that a price gets lowered only to rise again. WCT offers a good value to its members and needs their continued support."

Like many of us that thoroughly enjoy our profession, Clay has found himself consumed by his work. A trip to the auction to add to his collection of graders and dozers has taken the place of hobbies. He does command some celebrity in Healdsburg, having been voted 'Mr. Healdsburg' after a delivering a heartfelt rendition of Roger Miller's King of the Road.

A conversation with the man who collects CATS will assure you that he has just as much energy for his new role as a WCT trustee as he does for his CATS.

CATS-4-U, Inc
8755 Highway 128
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Ph (707) 433-8304
Ex (707) 433-9104
CA Lic #465781

WORKERS' COMP TRUST (WCT)

WCT Chairman
Henry Beaumont
PCD

WCT Vice Chairman
Tom LeDuc
LeDuc & Dexter, Inc.

TRUSTEES

Mike Behler
Behler Construction Company

Warren Brown
Warren R. Brown Construction

Eric Crane
Crane of Ukiah, Inc.

Clay Green
CATS-4-U, Inc.

Phyllis Reason
Mike Reason Painting

Rodney Sichel
Empire Asphalt & Engineering Co.

Keith Woods
NCBE

WORKERS' COMP & SAFETY DIRECTOR

Hallie Fraser
NCBE
(707) 542-9502
(707) 542-2027 fax
hallie@ncbesafety.com

WORKERS' COMP & SAFETY REP

Kelley Keogh
(707) 542-9502
(707) 843-1632 cell
kelley@sonic.net

Workers' Comp Trust
P.O. Box 8070
Santa Rosa, CA 95407



Cal/OSHA Regulation Update – Roofing and Excavations

There's been a couple important changes to the construction safety orders that you should know about. Both of the orders below have been approved by the OSH Standards Board and are now in the hands of the Office of Administrative Law for final approval:

1) FALL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL

ROOFING. There have been revisions made to Construction Safety Orders §1730 and a whole new §1731 has been created. The change to §1730 simply creates the exception for “roofing work on new production-type residential construction with roof slopes 3:12 or greater” from complying with §1730. This type of construction must now comply with the newly created §1731 which basically changes the trigger height for fall protection to 15 feet (it was 20 feet).

Specifically, §1731 requires that for roof slopes from 3:12 through 7:12, employees shall be protected from falling when on a roof surface where the eave height exceeds 15 feet about the grade or level below by use of one or any combination of the following methods:

- Personal Fall Protection
- Catch platforms
- Scaffold platforms
- Eave barriers
- Standard railings and toeboards
- Roof jack systems

For roof slopes steeper than 7:12, fall protection methods shall be applied regardless of height.

§1731 also requires specific training (and documentation) for affected employees including but not limited to:

- Work on or near gable ends

- Slipping hazards
- Roof holes and openings
- Skylights
- Work on ladders and scaffolds
- Access to roof
- Placement and location of materials on roof
- Impalement hazards
- Care and use of fall protection systems.

For the full text of the regulation go to: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OSHSB/triggerheight0.html> or contact Hallie Fraser, NCBE Workers' Comp & Safety Director at (707) 542-9502 or hallie@ncbeonline.com.

2) EXCAVATIONS. The revisions to §1541 of the Construction Safety Orders was mostly in response to the tragedy in Walnut Creek where five welders were killed and four others severely burned when a high-pressure gasoline pipeline was breached by a backhoe operator. Pipeline breaches are pervasive and a danger to workers. SB1359 was sponsored by Sen. Tom Torlakson (passed and signed by governor) and works together with the OSHA initiative which in summary requires:

Excavations shall not commence until:

- The excavation area has been marked by the excavator as specified in Government Code 4216.2.
- The excavator has received a “positive response” from all known owners/operators of subsurface installations within the proposed project's boundaries of installation locations, or that they do not operate an installation that would be affected by the proposed excavation.
- When an excavation is within 10 feet of a “high-priority” subsurface installation, the excavator shall be notified by the facility owner/operator of the existence of the high priority

Continued on page 4

An Educated Safety Program *Is a smart company move*

Continued from page 1

Although Carrie has been on or around the jobsite for the past three years, she credits the 10-hour OSHA course for opening her eyes to the many potential pitfalls associated with the jobsite. She shared, “I wound up in my role because I had organizational skills and could handle the paperwork requirements. After attending the OSHA course I realized there is so much more to focus on. Avoiding injury is paramount to an employer, not just because of the personal loss, but also to avoid becoming a defendant in a lawsuit. The course taught me to recognize that the reduction of injuries is noticeable with the implementation of a good safety program.”

One of Carrie's biggest challenges lies ahead with the upcoming start of projects in Occidental and Forestville. Harmony Village and Forestville Square will mean expanding the safety program to an even greater number of workers. Carrie suggested that its one thing to be an on-site safety coordinator and another challenge to provide safety direction to multiple projects

in different areas of the county.

Based on her education alone, Carrie appears ready for any challenge. “After all,” she says, “I attended the NCBE University of Safety.”

Thiessen Homes
 Dba/ Windsor Town Village L.P.
 220 Windsor River Road
 Windsor, CA 95492
 ph: (707) 836-9112
 fx: (707) 836-9143





Safety Snippets

Upcoming NCBE Workers' Comp & Safety Seminars

All listed seminars are held in NCBE's Construction Training Center, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa (unless otherwise specified)

2007

March 23rd – CPR/1st Aid

April 24th – Intro to Cal/OSHA for Construction

April 26th – Forklift Operator Training

May 4th – Flagger Training

May 18th – CPR/1st Aid



More seminars are being scheduled. NCBE Members keep an eye out in the Building News for all seminars. Flyers for each are inserted about three weeks prior to the seminar and a broadcast fax is sent to all members.

For a full listing, go to www.ncbeonline.com or for safety seminars only go to www.ncbesafety.com. You can also contact Rebecca at (707) 542-9502 for more information regarding our lineup of seminars.

Cal/OSHA Regulation Update – Roofing and Excavations

Continued from page 3

subsurface installation before the legal excavation start date and an onsite meeting involving the excavator and the subsurface installation owner/operator's representative shall be scheduled to determine the action requires to verify the location of such installations.

- High priority subsurface installations are high pressure natural gas pipelines with normal operating pressures greater than 415 kPA gauge (60 p.s.i.g), petroleum pipelines, pressurized sewage pipelines, conductors or cables that have a potential to ground of 60,000 volts or more, or hazardous materials pipelines that are potentially hazardous to employees, or the public, if damaged.
- Only qualified persons shall perform subsurface installation location activities (see full regulation for more specifics)
- Employees involved in the excavation operation and exposed to excavation hazards shall be trained in excavator notification and practices required.
- An excavator discovering or causing damages to a subsurface installation

immediately shall notify the facility owner/operator or contact the regional notification center. All breaks, leaks, nicks, dents, gouges, grooves, or other damage to an installation's lines, conduits, coatings, or cathodic protection shall be reported to the subsurface installation operator.

- If damage to a high priority line results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive substance, or endangers life, health or property, the excavator is to immediately notify 911, as well as the facility owner/operator.

For full text of the regulation go to: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OSHSB/excavations0.html> or contact Hallie Fraser, NCBE Workers' Comp & Safety Director at (707) 542-9502 or hallie@ncbeonline.com.

Contact Us

WORKERS' COMP TRUST

P.O. Box 8070, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

(707) 542-9502

(707) 542-2027 fax

email: hallie@ncbesafety.com

<http://www.ncbesafety.com>

COMP CORNER

Continued from page 1

ranking company official working at the establishment.

The Form 300A must be posted in each establishment in a conspicuous place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted. You must ensure that the posted annual summary is not altered, defaced or covered by other material (Your employee posting area, a break room or area, by the time clock, are all examples of places you can post the 300A form).

If you have greater than 10 employees and don't have a 300 Log or form 300A contact me at NCBE at (707) 542-9502 or you can go online at <http://www.californiaosha.info> where you can download or print out the forms.



Another reminder, tailgate safety meetings are required every ten days regardless of the size of your company (unless you have no employees) and you must make sure your training is "understandable" for all employees. There are several FREE resources on the internet including NCBE's workers' comp & safety website. Many of them have topics in English and Spanish. Here are a few of them:

<http://www.ncbesafety.com> – contact me for the member login

<http://www.scif.com/safety/safetymeeting/SafetyMtgTopics.asp>

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/buildsafe>

<http://www.cdc.gov/elcosh/docs/training/materials.html>

Tailgate topics need to be 10-15 minutes and cover specific hazards that really exist at your worksite. The meetings can be held any day or time that works for your organization, as long as they occur a minimum of every ten working days. Always document all safety training, that is, have your employees "sign-in" that they attended.

