



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
AND
ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS - VIRGINIA CHAPTER
NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: September 3, 2020

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**VOSH AND THE ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS –
VIRGINIA CHAPTER ANNOUNCE VIRGINIA BUILT STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP**

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry’s Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program and the Associated Builders & Contractors – Virginia Chapter (ABC-VA) have entered into a strategic partnership to bring a first in the nation – Virginia BUILT Program (Building Safety and Health Excellence in Construction Through Mentorship and Training) to ABC-VA members.

Virginia BUILT is designed to encourage and recognize ABC-VA members who voluntarily implement highly effective safety and health management systems to benefit construction workers and reduce or eliminate injuries, illnesses and fatalities on construction sites in Virginia.

Commissioner of Labor and Industry C. Ray Davenport and Pat Dean, President of the ABC – Virginia Chapter, signed a strategic partnership agreement on August 18, 2020.

“We at the Department of Labor and Industry are proud to partner with the Associated Builders and Contractors of Virginia in the historic Virginia BUILT program,” said C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. “This agreement and its elements are an obvious result of ABCVA’s strong support for worker safety. The rigorous requirements of the Virginia BUILT program will create an elite group of Virginia Businesses that share as their common goal the creation of workplaces that are among the safest in

the nation. It is an honor to be a part of this partnership which demonstrates a commitment to workplace safety and health in such a strong way.”

Core elements of the Virginia BUILT Program include:

- 1) Management Leadership and Employee Involvement
- 2) Worksite Analysis
- 3) Hazard Prevention and Control
- 4) Safety and Health Training

Four levels of participation in Virginia BUILT are provided:

Mentorship Tier: - The introductory level of participation in the partnership for those employers actively working with the ABC-VA Virginia BUILT Council to improve their safety and health management systems, with the goal of becoming a Tier I participant Virginia BUILT Program.

Tier I – The basic achievement level in the Virginia BUILT program for applicants that develop and implement an effective safety and health management system that meets current VOSH regulatory requirements.

Tier II – The intermediate achievement level in the Virginia BUILT program for applicants having an established safety and health management system that exceeds current VOSH regulatory requirements.

Tier III – The highest achievement level in the Virginia BUILT program for applicants having an exceptional safety and health management system that serves as a model for other construction employers.

Benefits are provided commensurate with the level of participation in Virginia BUILT. Participants that achieve Tier III recognition will receive an exemption from planned construction inspections from the VOSH Program, which allows VOSH to focus its limited compliance resources on high injury and illness rate employers.

Construction contractors that participate in Virginia BUILT will substantially improve safety and health protections for Virginia workers through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatal accidents. Virginia BUILT participants will implement safety and health management systems which have consistently

demonstrated decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates and improved productivity and employee morale and retention. Reducing private sector employer costs associated with injuries, illnesses and fatal accidents enhances a company's economic viability and competitiveness, and increases available capital for reinvestment, expansion and new hiring.

Costs avoided include workers' compensation charges, insurance premium increases, property damage, production downtime, employee replacement and retraining, and litigation expenses.

For more information on the Virginia BUILT Program:

http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh_enforcement/BUILT_program.html

Contact Nathaniel Griffin, Virginia BUILT Coordinator, at 540.562.3580, ext 118, or at

Nathaniel.griffin@doli.virginia.gov

For more information on the best practices for preventing fatalities, injuries and illnesses:

http://www.doli.virginia.gov/vosh_enforcement/fatalities_info.html

A Media Packet for the VOSH Program can be found at:

http://www.doli.virginia.gov/media_room/vosh_media_packet_files/VOSH%20Media%20Packet_FINAL

The Associated Builders and Contractors – Virginia Chapter is a statewide, pro-business association representing construction-related firms. ABC-VA has the compelling distinction of being the only association that is based on a philosophy of free enterprise. They are dedicated to representing the interests of merit-shop contractors. ABC-VA is focused leader in providing jobsite safety, networking, education, political advocacy and service to the commercial construction industry. ABC-VA membership consists of a full range of contractors from the hometown local contractor to the large, global construction firms, material suppliers and industry professionals.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry offers two other voluntary protection recognition programs, the **Virginia Voluntary Protection Program** (VPP) generally for larger fixed site employers and the **Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program** (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer. Both programs recognize Virginia employers that develop and implement exceptional safety and health management systems for the employees. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry office closest to you at www.doli.virginia.gov or for VPP – contact Milford Stern, VPP

Program Manager, at 540.562.3580, ext. 123, or milford.stern@doli.virginia.gov and for SHARP – contact, Jennifer Rose, Director of Cooperative Programs, at 804.786.7776 or jennifer.rose@doli.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry also offers **On-site Consultation Services** to help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH standards. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees and all services are offered to employers at no cost. On-Site Consultation Services helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards through walk-through surveys (without citations or penalties), provides abatement advice, provide on-site training, and provide program assistance to develop safety and health programs. Additional information about On-Site Consultation Services can be obtained by contacting the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry office closest to you at www.doli.virginia.gov or by contacting Jennifer Rose, Director of Cooperative Programs, at 804.786.7776 or jennifer.rose@doli.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal finds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor – OSHA, under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

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