

AGC of Virginia is proud to recognize Perry Engineering and Winchester Precast, members of the AGC of Virginia chapter since 1952 and 2018 respectively, and 2020 recipients of the AGC CSEA Awards (CSEA; Construction, Safety, Excellence Award).

The purpose of the CSEA is to recognize those construction companies who excel at safety performance. The CSEA closely examines each candidate's commitment to safety and occupational health management and risk control. Unlike other safety award programs that limit the criteria to frequency rates, the CSEA selection process is considerably more comprehensive. Each application will be reviewed for evidence of company management commitment, active employee participation, safety training, work size hazard identification and control, and safety program innovation.— AGC of America

"We are very excited about the recent CSEA awards for both Perry Engineering and Winchester Precast. To have both companies win safety awards at a national level is phenomenal. This was the 2nd year in a row for Perry Engineering. We've put a tremendous amount of effort into the safety programs for both companies and we're proud of what our employees have accomplished. We're using the CSEA awards both as confirmation that our employees can achieve great things when we work as a team as well as a motivator to continue incremental improvements in our safety program and to not get complacent."
Ken Pracht, Safety Director for Perry Engineering

The leadership of these companies were not just "doing what we always did", in hopes their safety programs would better protect their employees. They reviewed their plans and policies, researched and studied recommendations, and ultimately modeled their safety and health management system after the core principals of OSHA Challenge/VA BEST, which are; management leadership and employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.

Management leadership and employee involvement include

Senior management of each company is an active part of the companies Safety Committee and participate in incident reviews and safety meetings with the hourly employees who are also included on the Safety Committee. Senior management demonstrated their leadership and commitment to safety by strictly enforcing the concept that safety will not be compromised, even when that meant termination of employees who did not uphold the companies high standard of safety. Every employee has been given Stop Work Authority with instructions on how to use that authority. Hardhat stickers that list the direct telephone numbers for each member of senior management have been provided to the employees, and employees are encouraged to call a senior management member, if they have an unresolved concern. The idea of ownership in safety has been instilled in the employees; that each employee has a responsibility to them self, their fellow workers, and their family, to work safely, not take risks, and to take prompt action if a hazard develops or an unsafe act is seen, so that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day. There are frequent safety stand-downs

to discuss recent incidents, special topics such as trench or heavy equipment safety, and general safety reminders. To involve field-level employees, safety awards have been established and include safe employee of the month, employee safety suggestions, crew safety suggestions, quarterly awards, and safe crew of the year awards. Winners of the various awards are recognized in a variety of ways.

Worksite analysis

Employees perform a pre-use safety inspection of their equipment, daily. Safety hazards are immediately reported, the equipment is taken out of service, and maintenance is notified. A weekly documented safety audit is performed by each supervisor and corrective actions are noted. Supervisors are encouraged to involve crew members in the audits. Unannounced safety audits are performed by members of the safety department. A VOSH consultation visits were implemented to help identify uncontrolled hazards

Hazard Prevention and Control

Each project has a Site Specific Safety Plan developed to address anticipated hazards and controls, based on the scope of work. This plan includes every anticipated task along with the hazards of the task, the engineering, administration, and work practice controls, and PPE required. If the event the scope of work or hazards change, the plan is updated. A Safety Kickoff meeting is held with each crew on site to discuss those hazards and controls, at the start of each project and when new crews arrive on site. Collisions while backing up is one of the most frequent and serious hazards. The companies adopted a "Forward First" policy where employees are trained to park so they drive forward rather than backing up. New trucks and equipment are being purchased with backup camera systems already installed, back up camera systems and additional mirrors have been installed in a number of older trucks and equipment. All trucks lacking a backup camera system have had G.O.A.L. (Get Out And Look) decals affixed to the mirrors (with associated training), and a spotter is required whenever backing in the blind. The companies are continuing to investigate additional technology for blind spot monitoring.

Safety and Health Training

Every new employee, regardless of prior experience, receives a safety orientation their first day of work. Upon arrival on site, their supervisor continues the orientation, familiarizing them with the equipment and tools they will use and usually pairs them with an experienced mentor. New hires also wear a unique color hardhat so they are easily identified as needing extra supervision. Every field employee receives OSHA training. Project Managers, Superintendents and Foremen all receive OSHA 30-hour Construction Outreach training, which is refreshed every 4-5 years. Hourly employees all receive OSHA 10-hour Construction Outreach training, and may volunteer for the 30-hour, which is refreshed every 4-5 years. Every field employee receives first aid/CPR training. Superintendents and Foremen receive ASHI Advanced First Aid for Non-EMS Personnel, American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR AED, and American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed training during an intensive 3-day training course with hands-on activity.

Every hourly employee receives 4 ½ hour American Heart Association Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED training and may volunteer for the advanced training. The leadership of the companies believe this training is beneficial to the employees in the event of a serious injury as well as to the employee's family and community at-large. As a result of this commitment, the companies received the 2019 Lord Fairfax EMS Council Regional Award for Outstanding Safety & Health Excellence.