

# Executive Safety Update

The Monthly News Bulletin of the Construction Safety Center

Vol. 18, Issue 11 – May 2011

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## Illinois Governor Unveils \$11.5 Billion Multiyear Construction Program

Gov. Pat Quinn last week unveiled a new \$11.5 billion multiyear construction program for Illinois. The governor estimates the program will create 155,000 jobs and spark economic development throughout the state while improving safety and reducing congestion.

Driven by the "Illinois Jobs Now!" capital program, the statewide multiyear plan for Fiscal Years 2012-17 will improve 3,248 miles of road and replace or rehabilitate 611 bridges. In the upcoming fiscal year, the state is expected to improve 490 miles of road and 105 bridges.

"The last two construction seasons have been the busiest in Illinois' history, thanks to Illinois Jobs Now!" Quinn said in a statement. "This plan will ensure that we have record-breaking construction seasons in 2012 and beyond that exemplify my commitment to creating jobs and supporting our economic recovery through critical investment in our roads and bridges."

Of the \$11.5 billion program, \$7.2 billion is from federal funds and the remainder from state funds, including \$2 billion through the six-year Illinois Jobs Now! capital program enacted in 2009.

State highways will see \$8.3 billion in improvements over the life of the program, with \$3.2 billion available for local roads. In the state portion of the multiyear program, \$3.5 billion will be for reconstructions, resurfacings, widenings, and other safety projects; \$1.9 billion for bridges; \$2.1 billion for congestion mitigation; and \$774 million for new roads and increased access for economic development.

"We are excited to move forward with these projects that will create jobs and make our roads safer," Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig said in a statement. "We believe they will spark economic development and enhance the quality of life for residents across the state."

### Executive Safety Update

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## *ASSE's June Chicago 100th Anniversary Conference Breaking Records, Illustrates Importance of Work Safety*

For the first time in its 100 year history the Des Plaines, Illinois-based American Society of Safety Engineers' (ASSE) annual professional development conference (PDC) and exposition, Safety 2011, will be held in Chicago June 12-15 at McCormick Place and is already breaking records.

Last year's ASSE PDC in Baltimore, Maryland, set a record 61,500 exhibitor square foot space sold with more than 400 exhibitors. This was the largest number of exhibitors and square feet sold since the first ASSE PDC held in 1968. This year, three months before the conference ASSE has already sold 62,000 square feet and are already planning to expand. The international conference which draws attendees from around the world also draws international exhibitors and to date companies from China, U.K., Taiwan, Puerto Rico, the Netherlands, Korea, India, Japan and Canada will be exhibiting their products and services.

ASSE officials also announced that Jim Cornelison, the famed Blackhawks national anthem singer, will open the conference's June 13 general session which will also feature the Lake Zurich High School marching band. Cornelison is an opera singer trained at Indiana University and the Chicago Lyric and has performed the classics around the world.

As part of Safety 2011 and ASSE's yearlong celebration of a century of safety, the Society will also be host to a special 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala celebration at Navy Pier Monday, June 13. During the conference attendees will also hear about the state of the Society and ASSE's vision for the next 100 years of safety.

As the premiere safety conference, attendees will be able to choose from more than 255 educational sessions from many different topic tracks, including special tracks for executives, presentations on business skills and sessions covering various technical and managerial topics. New to Safety 2011 is a track on the history of safety and the occupational safety, health and environmental profession as well as corporate social responsibility.

Keynote speakers Daniel Pink will share his innovative ideas about changing the world of work and Nancy Goodman Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Kommen Foundation, will share her story about how one person can make a difference.

In the spotlight are several technical tours selected by Chicago area ASSE chapter members where Safety 2011 attendees can observe different workplaces and gain new ideas to apply to their safety management challenges. The Chicago technical tours will be held at the Museum Science and Industry, Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA), Soldier Field, U.S. Cellular Field, the Deep Tunnel Facility, the Juno Lighting Group, The Morton Arboretum, S&C Electric Company, Green Tech Chicago, Great Lakes Recruit Training Center, the CTA, and Willis Tower.

During the conference, leaders in the safety profession and milestones made will also be recognized. In addition, top executives representing a variety of industries will be on the 'Executive Summit Panel' providing their view of safety, advice and firsthand testimonials aimed at helping Safety 2011 attendees better understand what corporate leaders expect from their safety professionals and suggestions on how they can engage senior management.

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Special plenary panel sessions with leaders from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) will also be held.

Current Safety 2011 sponsors include ABB, CLMI Safety Training, Complete Equity Markets, Inc., and ISHN – Industrial Safety and Hygiene News. For more information on ASSE's Safety 2011 one can go to [www.safety2011.org](http://www.safety2011.org) or call 847-699-2929 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting 847-699-2929 end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting and [www.safety@heiexpo.com](mailto:www.safety@heiexpo.com) or 630-434-7779 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting 630-434-7779 end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting for exhibitors.

Founded in 1911 and celebrating its centennial, the Des Plaines, IL-based ASSE is the oldest professional safety society and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Last year, ASSE had more than 3600 attendees from the U.S. and 38 countries attend its PDC. Its more than 33,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members lead, manage, supervise, research and consult on safety, health, transportation and environmental issues in all industries, government, labor, healthcare and education. For a full copy of the letter please go to [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org), to view the ASSE – A Century of Safety film go to [www.asse.org/assecenturyofsafety](http://www.asse.org/assecenturyofsafety).

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## US Labor Department fall protection directive upheld in US Court of Appeals

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit rejected a challenge by the National Roofing Contractors Association to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's December 2010 directive on the use of fall protection in residential construction. The directive withdrew an earlier one that allowed certain residential construction employers to bypass some fall protection requirements.

"Fall protection saves lives," said OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels. "There are effective means available to protect residential construction workers from falls. We applaud the court's decision upholding this updated, commonsense directive."

Data from the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that an average of 40 workers are killed each year as a result of falls from residential roofs. One-third of those deaths represent Latino workers, who often lack sufficient access to safety information and protections. Latino workers comprise more than one-third of all construction employees.

"Fatalities from falls are the number one cause of death in construction," added Michaels. "These deaths are preventable, and we must prevent them."

OSHA's new directive, Standard 03-11-002, rescinded the Interim Fall Protection Compliance Guidelines for Residential Construction, Standard 03-00-001. Prior to the issuance of this new directive, Standard 03-00-001 allowed employers engaged in certain residential construction activities to use specified alternative methods of fall protection rather than the conventional fall protection required by the residential construction fall protection standard. With the issuance of the new directive, all residential construction employers must comply with 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1926.501(b)(13). Where residential builders can demonstrate that traditional fall protection is not feasible, 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(13) still allows for alternative means of providing protection.

The case was litigated by Lauren Goodman and Heather Phillips from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health in the department's Office of the Solicitor.

Construction and roofing companies have until June 16 to comply with the new directive. OSHA has developed training and compliance assistance materials for small employers and will host a webinar for parties interested in learning more about complying with the standard. To view the directive and for more information, visit [http://www.osha.gov/doc/residential\\_fall\\_protection.html](http://www.osha.gov/doc/residential_fall_protection.html).

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.