



A Model r2p Partnership: Asphalt Paving

Moving research to practice through partnership: A case study in Asphalt Paving

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Overview

Multi-stakeholder partnerships can play a critical role in dissemination and implementation of health and safety innovations. To better document and understand construction partnerships that have successfully scaled up effective interventions to protect workers, researchers interviewed 15 key informants from business, labor and government who participated in a successful effort to limit worker exposure to asphalt fumes during paving activity and created a sustainable partnership model for addressing other safety and health efforts over time.

Key Findings

- As a result of the partnership, all six manufacturers of highway-class pavers used in the American market signed a voluntary agreement to include engineering controls to reduce worker exposure to asphalt fumes on all new equipment.
- Establishing a common, “win-win” vision that would benefit all partners and protect worker health and investing in group trust, transparency, and process were cited as particularly important for gaining buy-in from the diverse stakeholders.
- Several partners referred to the threat of regulation as an important driver motivating formation of the partnership. For paving contractors and equipment manufacturers, the threat of regulatory action made the decision to invest in proactive measures easier to justify. Taking a precautionary approach, the partnership chose not to wait for conclusive scientific results on whether the hazard caused cancer before acting to protect workers from asphalt fumes.
- Partners highlighted the speed of the change in which they achieved near universal adoption of the engineering controls for fumes relative to typical OSHA rulemaking timelines. They credited the collaborative process involving management, labor, manufacturers, government and researchers, as well as reliance on rigorous scientific testing of potential control measures.

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See abstract:

<http://bit.ly/1LuGCT1>

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