

Stakeholders Speak to the Effectiveness of Mandatory OSHA 10-hour Training in Massachusetts

Evaluation of the Implementation and Impact of a Massachusetts Construction OHS Training Rule

Cora Roelofs, CPWR Report, March 2012

Overview

Since 2008, Massachusetts has required that all workers on publicly funded construction projects complete a U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration-approved 10-hour safety class known as the “OSHA 10” for construction. The Commonwealth’s Attorney General’s Office is responsible for enforcing the requirement. This study investigated the implementation and impact of the training requirement policy through interviews with key informants and a survey of 100 workers across Massachusetts. Survey respondents offered a strong consensus on the value of the requirement in “raising the bar” in safety in the commercial construction sector even beyond public projects. They believed that compliance with the requirement was close to universal.

Key Findings

- OSHA-10 training has become the “baseline” standard for training in commercial construction in Massachusetts, regardless of funding source.
- The OSHA-10 training requirement has gained such widespread acceptance among construction industry stakeholders that most supported the introduction of a new “refresher” training requirement to sustain the commitment to on-going worker safety training.
- State enforcement personnel and employer and worker stakeholders believe that the training requirement has been thoroughly implemented and that workers on publicly funded construction projects possess OSHA-10 training cards.
- Non-union, residential and limited English-speaking workers are much less likely to have had OSHA-10 or any health and safety training.
- More research is required to better understand the impact of safety training on safety on construction sites.

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See full report:

<http://bit.ly/18kGMwd>

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