

Construction Owners Positive on Prevention through Design

Owners' role in facilitating Prevention through Design

T. Michael Toole, John A. Gambatese, and Deborah A. Abowitz. Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice, January 2016.

Owners' role in facilitating Designing for Construction Safety

T. Michael Toole, John A. Gambatese, and Deborah A. Abowitz. CPWR Report, January 2012.

Overview

Prevention through Design (PtD) incorporates construction worker safety in the design of a building project. Researchers interviewed and surveyed respondents employed by construction owners to assess construction owners' awareness of PtD, and to learn how they applied PtD elements in their projects. The researchers employed a mixed-methods design, performing in-depth case studies at four firms followed by a nationwide survey to confirm that responses at the four firms reflected larger industry trends.

Key Findings

- While a number of leading firms in energy and manufacturing now require PtD elements from their design and construction teams, the vast majority of the construction industry has not heard of PtD.
- Most owners believed that PtD could reduce both construction worker injuries and lawsuits against project owners, but many also believed that PtD could make the design process more expensive and time-consuming.
- Owner initiative is essential to implementing PtD. Owners who wish to do so should adopt a formal PtD policy, and incorporate clear PtD obligations in their architecture and engineering contracts.
- Supporting tools such as design checklists, 4-D computer-aided design (CAD) systems, and risk identification and assessment documents, can facilitate implementation.

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See abstract:

<http://bit.ly/2jBLJfM>

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