

Suicide Prevention in the Construction Industry: Know the Signs and Help a Life

Live Webinar on Wednesday, September 13th at 2:00pm Eastern

Moderator: Chris Trahan Cain, CIH, Executive Director, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training

Panelists:

- **Raffi F. Elchemmas, CSP, MBA**, Executive Director, Safety, Health and Risk Management, *Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)*
- **Alexander M. Kopp**, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, *The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)*
- **Randy Dye**, Chairman, *Race to Stop Suicide*
- **Kevin Striegle**, Manager, *Daniel Dye Racing & Race to Stop Suicide*
- **Justin Crandol, MS, CSP, ARM, CRIS**, Director of Safety, *Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA)*
- **Wesley L. Wheeler, SMS, CESCO**, Executive Director of Safety, *National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)*

Featuring *NASCAR driver Daniel Dye's race team* and the *Race to Stop Suicide* for a conversation about real issues & ways to spot signs of depression or feelings of hopelessness in colleagues, employees, and loved ones!

And a brand-new video on overcoming suicidal thoughts from *Justin Azbill* (National EH&S Director at Milwaukee Tool)



<http://cpwr.com/webinars>



Suicide in the Construction Industry

Raffi Elchemmas, CSP, MBA

Executive Director

Safety, Health and Risk Management

Mechanical Contractors Association of America



Mechanical Contractors Association of America



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Suicide in the Construction Industry

- Construction continues to have one of the highest suicide rates across all industries.
- About four times higher than the general population.
- Approximately 1,000 jobsites deaths each year in construction.
- Approximately 5,000 deaths by suicide.
- Mental Health Awareness could be one of the biggest opportunities to make a difference in our industry today.

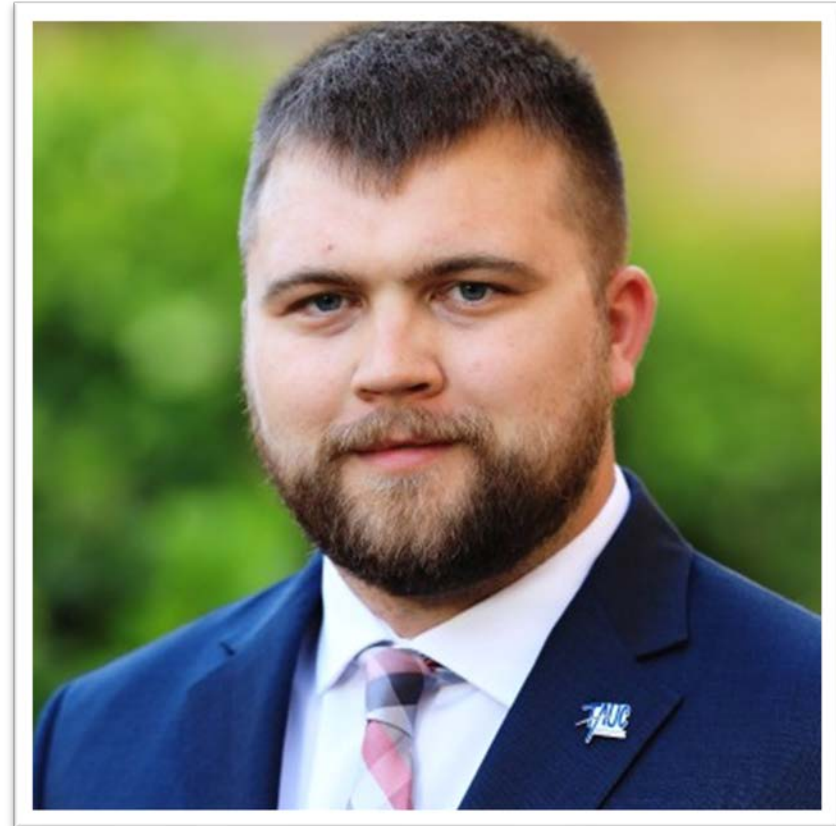


What Are Our Organizations Doing?

Alexander M. Kopp

Director of Environmental Health
and Safety

*The Association of Union
Constructors (TAUC)*



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CPWR Resources

Webpages on Suicide Prevention & Opioids:

<https://cpwr.com/mentalhealth>

- New Training Materials for Building Resilience
- [2021 Webinar: Supporting Construction Workers: Suicide Prevention, Mental Health, and Substance Use](#)
- [Key Findings from Research](#): Psychological distress and suicidal ideation among male construction workers in the United States
- Hazard Alert: Preventing Suicide Prevention in Construction — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Toolbox Talk: Suicide Prevention in Construction — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Toolbox Talk: Workplace Stress — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Infographic: Start a Conversation — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Infographic: Reach Out — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Increasing Awareness

- **TAUC/MCAA/NECA/SMACNA Chips & Stickers**



Race to Stop Suicide Event



Daniel Dye Racing & The Race to Stop Suicide

Kevin Striegler

Manager

*Daniel Dye Racing and the
Race to Stop Suicide*



kevin@danieldyeracing.com



Randy Dye

President

Daniel Dye Racing

On-Board Camera



Daniel Dye FOX Onboard

<https://youtu.be/aXw0jY3L0aA?si=fah9k1rC4fytUg9p>

Daniel Dye's Message



Daniel Dye Race to Stop Suicide

https://youtu.be/mmWIVeO36IE?si=5b-m_NR9CevgPdwe



www.danieldyeracing.com/



<https://racetostopsuicide.com/>

It Can Happen to Anyone

Justin Crandol, MS, CSP, ARM, CRIS

Director of Safety

*Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning
Contractors' National Association
(SMACNA)*



jcrandol@smacna.org



<https://youtu.be/RqpyrH-sR4k>

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Call to Action

Wesley L. Wheeler, SMS, CESCO

Executive Director of Safety, *National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)*

Board Member, *Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP)*



wesley.wheeler@necanet.org

Creating a Culture of Care

- Leadership support
- Injury management/return to work programs
- Flexibility with scheduling
- Setting reasonable expectations
- Peer-support groups & team-building activities
- Financial education
- Substance use education
- Reduce jobsite access to lethal means
- Train management in soft skills and communication
- Train and develop employees to reach their full potential
- Build in protective factors for veterans



Intangibles and Intuition

- Share your story
- Engagement
- Make a phone call
- Invite someone to lunch
- Schedule afterwork and weekend activities
- Include EVERYONE!
- Create a post on LinkedIn/Social Media letting people know they can reach out to you if they need someone to talk to.
- Who is that person you have not spoken with in weeks? In Months? In Years?



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Thank you! QUESTIONS?

<http://cpwr.com/webinars>

