

New Fall Prevention Curriculum at CJAP

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Added Curriculum at CJAP will help keep Carpenters Safe on job sites.

On April 16, instructors in the Safety and Health (5-day) Pre-Apprenticeship, Safety and Health (10-day) Orientation, Residential, and Scaffolding Courses at the Carpenters' Joint Apprenticeship Program (CJAP) in Affton, Missouri rolled out a new training program aimed at preventing falls among Carpenters. The development of these new teaching materials and methods followed a two-year evaluation of the Fall Prevention Curriculum at CJAP through surveys of Apprentices and audits of residential construction sites, which occurred as a joint project with Occupational Health Researchers at Washington University and Duke University.

Lynda Mueller Drendel, the OSHA 5-day instructor, described some goals of the new curriculum. "We are making a shift toward more active, hands-on learning in place of some of the book learning and other passive instructional methods that we have used previously." This new hands-on learning includes the use of a large prop of a residential site that includes leading edges, controlled access zones, joists, trusses, and other common residential construction situations that place Carpenters at risk.

Todd Erdman, instructor for the 10-day course, notes "The Apprentices need to learn the material, but in addition to knowledge it's their attitudes toward safety and health that we need to change."

Other members of the instruction team that developed the new curriculum include Barry Stelzer, Mike Short, and Leonard Harris.

Mark Fuchs, CJAP Coordinator says, "We think that these improved training methods will increase awareness of fall hazards among Apprentices and will help to reduce the number of falls suffered by Carpenters."

The CJAP Fall Prevention Curriculum evaluation and training materials have started to receive national attention, and were presented at the National Safety Council Meeting in Chicago this spring.



(L-R) Mark Fuchs, CJAP Coordinator; Mark Clancy, Lead Instructor; Todd Erdman, Instructor; Leonard Harris, Instructor; Lynda Mueller Drendel, Instructor; Mike Short, Instructor; and Barry Stelzer, Instructor