



By VICKI KASKUTAS, OTD, OT/L at Washington University

Fall Prevention Research with Washington University

A new Carpenters' Fall Prevention Research Project began on July 1st at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Vicki Kaskutas received a one-year grant from the Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety to pilot fall prevention devices at residential job sites. The Heartland Center is funded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

In the first phase of this project, Carpenter Instructors, Journey-Level, Apprentices, and Residential Contractors will identify the most useful fall prevention equipment for guarding openings, anchoring personal fall arrest systems, and providing temporary walking surfaces.

In the second phase, the research team will provide these fall prevention devices to Residential Contractors who are willing to evaluate the effectiveness of these devices during construction of several homes.

Dr. Bradley Evanoff from Washington University has

applied for another 5-year grant through the Center for Construction Research and Training to help Residential Contractors integrate fall prevention training and mentorship at their job sites. This project will build on Dr. Evanoff's grant that revised the fall prevention training at the Carpenters' Joint Apprenticeship Program based upon feedback from more than 1,000 Apprentices and 200 residential job sites audits. This project has seen improvements in knowledge, training, and reported behaviors, along with improved fall prevention practices at residential job sites. The research team will continue to perform job site audits to monitor changes in safe behaviors over time.

The research team would like to thank the Carpenters, Contractors, CJAP Instructors, and the District Council for assisting with this research. Residential Contractors interested in participating in any of these research projects should contact Vicki Kaskutas at (314) 454-8423 or kaskutasv@wustl.edu.

Interior Systems / Garage Door Class DATE: June 10, 2009

In June, the Carpenters Training Center ran its first comprehensive Garage Door Installation Course after many months of preparations. The class combined several on-the-job learning scenarios and classroom instruction covering primarily residential installations. This 40-hour course was designed to cover expectancies in the field, step by step garage door and operator procedures, personal and job site safety, and work performance.

The five Apprentices who participated in the pilot class did an outstanding job, demonstrating excellent hands-on talent related to the industry and provided positive feedback. I invite Apprentices and Journey-Level Carpenters alike to take advantage of this new training opportunity available to you.

In closing, I would like to thank Rich Naes of Cardinal Door Co, Mark Birdsong with The Birdsong Co, Steve Mace of Overhead Door, and Butch Martin of Martin Door for their door and operator donations to the training center in support of the program. I am very grateful to Jack Kaelber, Butch Martin and Gene Walling of Martin Door for their time, technical support, and more importantly their assistance with the standards and benchmarks our Apprentices will need to work in the Garage Door Industry.

Thank you.

Henry Johnson III, Instructor



Photo Courtesy: HENRY JOHNSON III, Instructor

