

## Preventing Workplace Fatalities

Statistics show that 1 out of every 5 workplace fatalities is a construction worker. And falls from elevation account for one third of all deaths in construction. There is an average of 362 fatal falls each year.

Most accidents are caused by the following four hazards:

- ◆ Unprotected sides, openings and floor holes
- ◆ Improper scaffolding construction
- ◆ Unguarded steel rebar
- ◆ Misuse of portable ladders

It is recommended that whenever an employee can potentially fall 6 feet or more that either a guardrail system is in place, there is a safety net or fall protection equipment is used. Sometimes floor openings are not obvious and it is important that floor holes are covered



at all times by covers that can support the load.

A fall protection system either arrests a free fall or restrains a worker in position to prevent a fall from occurring. It is comprised of three components: harnesses or belts, connection devices and tie-off points. OSHA regulations require that all fall arrest equipment be inspected prior to each use. You

must look for frays or broken strands in lanyards, belts and lifelines, and distortion of any metal connection devices.

Improperly constructed scaffolding can result in serious injury and even death. Some contractors require that every employee on a job site be certified in scaf-

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## Member News

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**Glenewinkel Construction Company, LLC**, has joined the Rigid Global Buildings, LTD team as its authorized South Florida builder. Rigid Global Buildings, located in Houston, manufactures metal buildings, steel buildings, pre-engineered buildings, metal roof panels and metal wall panels. "Our new found partnership will prove to offer a wide range of metal building solutions for all industry types." remarked Gary Glenewinkel.

**Miller Construction Co.** completed the major renovation and expansion of Fisher Island Club's world-class, 24,000 sq. ft. Spa and Fitness Center.

While they transformed the interior, the Miller team meticulously preserved the exterior and key design features of the historic building, which was originally the private-plane hangar at the 1920s-era Vanderbilt family Fisher Island estate.

**Dash Door & Closer Service, Inc.**,

announced a new strategic alliance with Klein USA, a global manufacturer of high quality interior sliding door solutions. Dash Door will be the exclusive Klein distributor for Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties in Florida.



Fisher Island Club's Exterior



Fisher Island Club's Interior



Interior Sliding Door

**2nd Annual Tom Tucker Memorial Fishing Tournament**

**Bimini Sands Resort & Marina**  
Bimini, Bahamas

**May 17 & 18, 2013**

*(limited registration on a first come-first serve basis)*

Information and Registration brochure enclosed

INSIDE:

**Mini-Golf Tournament Pictures**

# Providing the "Right" Tools in the Field

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Stiles Construction Company, will be held on Thursday, March 21, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

**S**print Communications was originally founded in 1899 by Cleyson Brown as the Brown Telephone Company. When long distance opened the competition in the 1980's, Sprint seized the opportunity by completing the first nationwide 100% digital fiber optic network. The company was also a pioneer in data communications establishing the world's third largest commercial packet data network in 1980. Sprint has been a game-changing force in creating advanced local capabilities, groundbreaking IP and wireless applications and unprecedented mobility solutions.

Sprint offers a comprehensive range of wireless and

wire line communications services bringing the freedom of mobility to consumers, businesses and government users. The company was serving nearly 56 million customers at the end of the third quarter of 2012 and is widely recognized for developing, engineering and deploying innovative technologies, including the first wireless 4G service from a national carrier in the U.S. offering industry-leading mobile data services, leading prepaid brands including Virgin Mobile USA, Boost Mobile, and Assurance Wireless; instant national and international push-to-talk capabilities; and a global Tier 1 Internet backbone. Sprint provides the construction industry with fleet solutions that will simplify fleet management, reduce costs, increase efficiencies and

enhance security for mobile workers. Their main goal is to provide the right tools in the field and to "do more with less spending".

The company currently employs over 40,000 people globally and continues to grow every day. Some key people include, CEO Dan Hesse and Senior Business Solutions Manager for 10 years, Vivianne Del Vecchio, who has achieved Presidents Club honors by reaching #1 in the country for exceeding over 600% of quota and is continuously exceeding quota expectations. "I have the best support team anyone could ask for with a get it done attitude," expresses Del Vecchio. The team includes: Director Lynn Pincek, Sales Manager Rick Zalecki, and Solutions Engineer Jamie Stafford.

Sprint joined CASF in 2008 and has been extremely active since then. They sponsor events annually and just recently sponsored our Construction Technology Expo. "I have been a part of other organizations in Construction, but I find CASF is a head and shoulders above the rest. There is true kinship and I have been concentrating in this vertical since I started at Sprint. Everyone that I have met has been passionate about their business and that's what we are all here for...building partnerships," states Del Vecchio.

Sprint Communication's Southeast Headquarters is located at 6700 N. Andrews Avenue in Ft. Lauderdale. For more information contact Vivianne Del Vecchio at 561-436-4153, [vivianne.delvecchio@sprint.com](mailto:vivianne.delvecchio@sprint.com) or visit [www.sprint.com](http://www.sprint.com).



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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

# Better Than Reimbursing Your Drivers

By Brett Frazee, Enterprise Fleet Management

For those who wonder how much better it could be to provide company vehicles rather than reimburse drivers who use their own vehicles, it's easy to count the ways: improved cash flow, reduced overall operating costs, improved safety, enhanced driver morale and more professional company image. Each of these factors is significant independently; together they present a compelling case.

A recent analysis for a company that has 80 drivers, who average 15,000 to 20,000 miles per year, indicated that about \$100,000 a year could be saved by switching from reimbursing drivers to providing company-owned vehicles. Although the calculation was based on a combination of hard costs - lease terms, monthly payments, maintenance and insurance - and fuel savings generated by having a fleet of uniformly fuel-efficient vehicles, soft costs also were a factor. For example, while some drivers were operating older cars that were not very reliable, resulting in more downtime, others were driving vehicles

that were not very fuel-efficient. In addition, for those in competitive industries, employee-owned vehicles did nothing to enhance the professional image of the company they represented, which impacts awareness among potential customers and prospective employees.

The advantages of company-owned vehicles begin with acquiring vehicles that are the right size, include all appropriate safety features and have uniform fuel efficiency. Establishing a separate line of credit for vehicle purchases through a full-service fleet management company can eliminate the need to tap existing lines of credit to fund a rapidly depreciating asset. In addition, fleet management professionals can help ensure that vehicles are replaced at appropriate intervals to achieve optimum performance and resale value.

Operating costs can also be minimized with a company-owned fleet. A managed maintenance program can monitor and ensure regular service checks, examine invoices, and arrange the most economical, timely and high-quality repairs for fleet vehicles. This program also can yield maximum warranty

benefits, rebates, price breaks and other opportunities to minimize expenses. For example, a fuel card program can automatically monitor fuel purchases and mileage for each vehicle, while giving drivers maximum access to the most convenient fueling stations.

In today's competitive marketplace, great looking vehicles are good advertising. In addition to promoting the company's professional image in traffic and at job locations, having great looking cars can enhance employee satisfaction, which impacts retention as well as attracting the most qualified applicants when there are openings.

There are several options to reimburse an employee for using his or her own car on the job - actual cost, standard mileage rate, fixed or variable allowance. However, a comprehensive cost analysis could show that none of these methods is as cost effective or efficient as providing company-owned vehicles.

*Brett Frazee, Vice President for Enterprise Fleet Management in Miami, can be reached at 954-354-5410 or you can visit the company's web site at [www.efleets.com](http://www.efleets.com).*



Mini-Golf Tournament  
Wednesday, February 6  
Delray Beach



ROUTE TO:

## Preventing Workplace Fatalities

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folding even if they are not working on the scaffold.



This is so that everyone can recognize if there is something wrong with the scaffold construction. Or if they accidentally hit the scaffold they will notice

if there is something that needs to be repaired. There is a four-hour certification class required for anyone working on a scaffold. There is some confusion as to how often an employee has to be recertified.

Unguarded steel rebar poses a serious hazard and is the easiest hazard to prevent. Falling on exposed rebar can result in impaling, leading to grave injury and death. Guarding all exposed rebar with approved rebar caps is necessary to prevent this type of accident. OSHA



also recommends that you bend rebar so exposed ends are no longer upright.

Putting caps on horizontally exposed rebar can prevent cuts and other injuries that can occur when workers walk by and hit the exposed ends.

If portable ladders are not properly positioned, there is a risk of falls. It is recommended that you use only ladders that comply with OSHA design. Before each use, it is important to inspect for any broken parts.

It is important in the construction industry to have a safety program that educates workers to prevent falls. OSHA requires training and in some cases certification of all employees



exposed to fall hazards and the use of fall protection equipment, scaffolding and ladders. This training-certification requires documentation that the training has been provided by an employer to employees who are potentially exposed to fall hazards. This training

must include recognizing fall hazards, and using procedures and equipment that minimize these hazards. The more people you have trained and aware of dangerous

conditions, the more likely someone will recognize the hazard and prevent an accident from happening.

For more information on fall protection and scaffolding, visit the OSHA website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). Mark your calendar for the CASF Safety Conference & Awards Luncheon scheduled for April 12, 2013.