



## Here's Your Chance!

For many years the U.S. Department of Labor has conducted Davis Bacon wage surveys collecting data from limited sources, which excluded wage rates paid by many contractors throughout the country. As a result many South Florida contractors were scratching their heads when bidding government jobs wondering where those inflated rates came from.

**Now you have a chance to provide your company's input.** This is all made possible through the voice of local industry associations, led by Len Mills, South Fla. Associated General Contractors, by asking the simple question over and over, "What about us?"

The Department of Labor's wage surveys are used to gather wage data that the government then uses to base important wage decisions on. While many think this only effects federal contracts, they are sadly mistaken. States, counties and local municipalities also use the survey results to determine Living Wage rates and prevailing wage rates that they apply to their jobs.

From now until the cut-off date, March 31, 2015 you

can do your part by completing the Davis Bacon Wage Survey - Florida Statewide Building Construction.

Simply fill out Form WD-10 for every job over \$2,000

that you have performed between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. To make it easy the government provides an Electronic WD-10 that you can

fill out on-line. Just go to: [www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts/wagesurveys.htm](http://www.dol.gov/whd/govcontracts/wagesurveys.htm)

For information and instructions on how to fill out survey Form WD-10, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/whd/programs/dbra/wd10/wd10instr.htm>

Maria Cedrone Duffy, National Survey Coordinator (267-687-4023) said to, "Submit everything", whether you think it is pertinent or not. The more input gathered will ensure the wage rates are realistic. Her department estimates that it will take an average of 20-minutes to complete the survey. If you have any comments or suggestions, send them to: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, Administrator, Room S-3502, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210.



## Member News

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**GFA International** recently acquired the Construction and Materials Testing (CMT) assets of Allied Engineering and Testing, Inc. GFA will assume all of Allied's current materials testing contracts including major infrastructure and transportation projects throughout South Florida. These projects include airport and bridge construction QC services for heavy civil design and construction clients.

**JWR Construction Services** has started construction on the People's Trust Insurance interior office build-out at their new facility in Deerfield Beach. This build out will consist of a 15,000 SF expansion which will increase the amount of office space for managers and employees. A training room and café will also be added to this space. This project will take approximately 16 weeks to complete.

**Hollywood Woodwork** was honored October 7, at the Broward County Commission meeting with a proclamation by Mayor Barbara Sharief. The Mayor, cognizant of the role of small businesses in the growth of the community, chooses a business to highlight at each County Commission meeting. Sebastien Desmarais, Chief Financial Officer, received the award on behalf of Hollywood Woodwork.



People's Trust Insurance



Sebastien Desmarais

# Promoting Health & Safety for Construction

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 Current Builders, will be held on Thursday, November 20, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

Since their founding in 1983, Ritz Safety has become more than just a supplier of safety products from quality manufacturers. Started by Peter Merkl and his mother selling gloves out of their garage, Ritz has evolved into a full line safety distributor servicing businesses throughout the US and the Caribbean Basin in PPE and facility safety. Ritz Safety provides the construction industry with products for fall protection and all personal protective equipment, as well as, training in fall protection, confined space and other job site training.

One of the reasons that Ritz has been successful is

because they take pride in teaching and training their employees on their products. Their employees' passion and commitment differentiates them from other companies. They believe that providing a path and



resources to well-trained employees gives them a competitive edge when it comes to selling safety.

*"Ritz allows our employees to take an ownership in*

*what they do day in and day out,"* says Pawel Albrecht, District Sales Manager. *"Having autonomy to make decisions in the best interest of our company and our customers has allowed us to grow our brand nationwide and benefit from our employee sharing program."* Pawel also states that being a privately held company allows them to make decisions faster and take care of their customers based on

what is happening in each market.

A member of CASF since 2003, Ritz Safety feels that they've benefited from the Association by being involved in the many events that keep them in front of construction companies.

This allows them

not only to network, but also to hear directly from construction companies as to what they need in terms of products that make sense for them. Their mission statement is this: **To provide convenient and cost effective products and solutions to better promote the health and safety of all people, construction sites and facilities throughout the business community through effective consultation, superior ordering process and effective, on-time delivery...guaranteed!**

For more information about Ritz Safety you can visit their website at [www.ritzsafety.com](http://www.ritzsafety.com). You may also visit their newly expanded Pompano Beach location at 2200 W Copans Road.

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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.*

# Dangers of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

## What is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (also known as CO) is a gas that is produced when fuels, like gas, kerosene and oil, wood or other materials are burned. Carbon monoxide can be dangerous, even in small amounts, because it blocks oxygen from going into your body and can lead to death in a very short time. It is odorless, tasteless and invisible, so you may be exposed without knowing. That is why carbon monoxide is sometimes called “the silent killer.”

from hemoglobin, in turn providing the body with normal levels of oxygen. The prevention of poisoning is a significant job-site health issue. Carbon monoxide poisoning is the most common type of fatal poisoning.

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:

- ♦ Mental confusion
- ♦ Vomiting
- ♦ Loss of muscular coordination
- ♦ Loss of consciousness
- ♦ Ultimately death

Symptom severity is related to both the CO level and

## Preventing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- ♦ Ventilate all areas where fuel-burning equipment is being used by mechanical means to the outside.
- ♦ Tune and maintain engines and other equipment regularly.
- ♦ Provide at-risk workers with small CO monitors that can be worn and alarm when a safe level is exceeded.
- ♦ Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces, and basements.

♦ Open windows and doors in an enclosed space to reduce CO buildup

♦ Consider using a home CO detector, if no other monitoring device is available.

♦ Know the warning signs of CO exposure,

such as headache, faintness, dizziness, confusion, nausea, and irregular heartbeat.

♦ NEVER ignore these signs when working around fuel-burning equipment.

♦ Give immediate medical attention to workers who have been exposed to carbon monoxide.

## Signs of carbon monoxide poisoning



*A worker at a large, enclosed construction site died of carbon monoxide poisoning after he and six other workers were exposed to high levels of the gas. The site did not have enough ventilation and three machines were giving off carbon monoxide: a portable mixer and a trowel powered by gasoline, and a forklift powered by propane.*

Treatment of poisoning largely consists of administering 100% oxygen. Oxygen works as an antidote as it increases the removal of carbon monoxide

the duration of exposure. For slowly developing CO problems, physicians can mistake mild to moderate CO poisoning symptoms for the flu, which sometimes results in tragic deaths. For rapidly developing, high level CO exposures (e.g., associated with use of generators and other fuel-burning equipment), victims can rapidly become mentally confused, and can lose muscle control without having first experienced milder symptoms; they will likely die if not rescued.

CONSTRUCTION  
FOCUS

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ROUTE TO:

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# CASF Fall Barbecue at Moonshine Molly's

Wednesday, October 1

