



## High Winds Delay Construction Jobs

by Todd McFliker

Living in the South Florida sun, we are accustomed to hurricanes, tropical storms and even tornadoes. In January alone, we received cold and gusty winds up to 55 mph, along with tornados in Palm Beach County. Meanwhile Broward and Miami-Dade Counties experienced severe weather, with heavy rain and severe storms on the horizon.

Construction projects throughout the tri-county area are being postponed by heavy winds causing a threat to workers, as well as structures.

Whether the damage is caused from heavy machinery or simple gravity, strong winds are extremely dangerous. Tractors flip over, like when two steel columns and many joists fell at the former General Motors site in Linden, New Jersey in 2014. Meanwhile, too much wind causes people to slip, trip and fall, while coworkers bump into one another from internal site traffic. Heavy materials drop from scaffolds, lifts and hoists. Even sturdy ladders are known to collapse with enough force from Mother Nature.



Remember, it is up to individuals to protect themselves. At the same time, every company must develop a safe working environment. After all, it is their duty to protect all employees, along with contractors and visitors. All working methods should be made available in writing.

When it comes to this spring's strong winds, companies are responsible for comprehensively checking all equipment to confirm it is being well maintained and completely safe.

Sites should be organized, free from all clutter and hazards. All doorways and emergency exits must be clearly marked and easily accessible. Safety wear is just as important. Goggles, hard hats, dust masks, gloves and jackets can all be crucial in protecting one's body from objects being thrown around by high winds.

As long as the proper safety measures are taken for you, your team and your site, not even this season's mighty winds will prevent South Florida construction from building a better 2016.

## Member News

**Smith Currie** continues to grow in South Florida and they are pleased to announce that Barri Reisch has joined the firm as an associate in Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Reisch will practice in the areas construction law and business litigation, representing contractors, construction managers, major trade contractors, sureties, architects, and engineers. You can learn more about Barri at <http://www.smithcurrie.com/attorneys-Barri-Reisch.html>

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Barri Reisch

**Miller Construction Company** has completed construction of the 43,264-square-foot third phase of Lake Whitney Medical and Professional Campus in St. Lucie West.

The complex's latest phase includes two office buildings at 291 and 293 N.W. Peacock Boulevard within the lakefront business campus. The two-story, reinforced concrete and structural steel buildings each provide 21,632 square feet of space.

**Lank Oil Company** is pleased to announce the appointment of Terrence "Ted" E. Linne as their new President.

Ted joined Lank Oil in 1997 and has worked in multiple progressive roles. In this new role, Ted will oversee all aspects of the Company's marine, construction and retail fuel distribution operations.

"I am very proud to pass this long-standing honor of leading this team to Ted." said Bill Lank Jr., former President.



Lake Whitney Medical and Professional Campus



Ted Linne

# Where Employees Make the Difference

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 DPR Construction, will be held on Thursday, February 28, 7:30 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel - West Palm Beach off Okeechobee Road.

**M**axim Crane Works, L.P., one of the largest coast-to-coast provider of comprehensive lifting services in the United States, represents the combined strengths of more than a dozen crane companies that have been acquired since 1999. Their fleet of equipment includes crawler cranes, all terrain cranes, rough terrain cranes, tower cranes, conventional truck cranes, hydraulic truck cranes, boom trucks and carry decks. By providing such a large and safe fleet of equipment and more than 30 locations in five regions, they have the right combination to serve many industries throughout the country including power, industrial,

telecommunications, and of course, commercial.

Maxim is committed to bringing excellence in every area of their business. With dedicated professionals seeking an end result of superior customer service, their employees make the Maxim Crane Works differ-



ence. Maxim engineers, draftsmen and support staff have all been trained in the latest engineering software. Using a wealth of industry experience and technical data, they are able to accurately represent crane positioning and lifting procedures by inserting specific

computer drawn models into the actual jobsite drawings. This knowledge and expertise was surely a factor when Maxim was selected to work on the Brickell City Center project in Miami.

In addition to employing a knowledgeable staff, Maxim is also dedicated to safety and what they call a Zero Accident Philosophy. Safety at Maxim isn't simply a policy, priority or goal. It is a core value built into every task they perform. They employ one of the largest experienced and qualified safety staff in the industry. All jobs are subject to multiple levels of pre-planning, including

pre-lift job walks, daily risk assessment meetings, job hazard analysis and audits performed by all levels of management. This dedication to safety has earned Maxim's safety program recognition and many awards including Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association's Crane & Rigging Safety Award in 2015.

Maxim Crane has been a member of CASF since 2015. They are looking ahead to all the exciting prospects and knowledge that CASF has to offer through networking and educational forums.

To learn more about Maxim Crane Works and the services that they offer, you can call their Pompano Beach branch at 954-970-0587 or visit their office at 3800 N Powerline Road. You can also visit their website at [www.maximcrane.com](http://www.maximcrane.com).

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# OSHA's Rule Protects Workers in Confined Spaces

Approximately 780 serious injuries can be prevented each year. That is why OSHA issued a final rule in May to increase protections for construction workers in confined spaces. Construction workers' safeguards now match those in the manufacturing industry for more than two decades. Of course, some differences are tailored to our industry.

*"This rule will save lives of construction workers,"* said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. *"Unlike most general industry worksites, construction sites are continuously evolving, with the number and characteristics of confined spaces changing as work progresses. This rule emphasizes training, continual worksite evaluation and communication requirements to further protect workers' safety and health."*

A confined space is large enough for people to enter and exit. There is also a limited means to enter and exit. Confined spaces, such as manholes, crawl spaces and atticks are not safe for prolonged occupancy. They are some of the most difficult environments to exit from in case of an emergency. Men and women could easily get stuck in life-threatening hazards, including toxic substances, explosions and asphyxiation. In fact, it is not uncommon for individuals to be asphyxiated while repairing leaks in a confined space. In the construction industry, men and women must enter confined spaces, but that does not mean that unnecessary fatalities have to take place. OSHA's new

rules will simply improve the safety of the construction workers who enter these confined spaces.

*"We are here today because there have been some major changes that have taken place in the confined space entry regulations with OSHA,"* explained Robert Hudson, Shoring and Confined Space Specialist at United Rentals in Pompano Beach. *"We cover those specific changes, allowing contractors to take the proper steps to ensure they are protecting their employees. While the changes are nationwide, there are plenty of new facts that South Florida's contractors need to know moving forward. OSHA looks at accident reports and creates the proper regulations to prevent fatalities. The main changes here are to save lives."*

Confined Space 126 Subpart AA went into effect in August, 2015, affecting construction employers whose working may be exposed to confined space hazards. The new requirements include:

1. More detailed provisions requiring coordinated activities when there are multiple employers at the worksite. This ensures hazards are not introduced into a confined space by workers performing tasks outside the space.
2. Requiring a competent person to evaluate the work site and identify confined spaces.
3. Requiring continuous atmospheric monitoring.
4. Requiring continuous monitoring of engulfment hazards.
5. Allowing for the suspension of a permit, rather than cancellation, in the event of

changes from the entry conditions list on the permit or an unexpected event requiring evacuation.

In addition, employers who rely on local emergency services arrange for responders to give the employer advance notice if they will be unable to respond for a period of time. At the same time, employers must provide training in workers' languages and confirm their understanding with a test. These languages include Creole, along with Spanish spoken in Mexican, Cuban and Puerto Rican dialects.

While ignorance is the enemy, communication is key. According to Hudson, 70% of accidents can be prevented with communication. All employees on a construction site must be properly trained. *"We usually end up with two people*



*involved in an accident. It is the one person who goes down and then someone else who goes to rescue them. Roughly 60% of the time, the would-be rescuer is the one who doesn't survive,"* said Hudson. *"Do not try to be Superman. As hard as it may be, you have to remove your heart from the situation."*

CASF is proud that its first safety lunch of 2016 was such a big success. There was a wonderful turnout representing the construction industry from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

CONSTRUCTION  
FOCUS

CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

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ROUTE TO:

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## First CASF Networking Breakfast in 2016

*Sponsored by Moriarty Construction, Shula's Hotel Miami Lakes, Thursday, January 21*

