



Outdoor Workers: Beware of Zika Outbreak

The Zika outbreak the United States has been dreading may have finally landed in South Florida. State and federal health officials are currently investigating two cases in Broward and Miami-Dade that may not be travel-related. Although there have been over 1,400 reported cases of people infected with the disease in the United States, almost all Zika patients contracted the virus while traveling to an infected region. Until now, there was no indication that any were transmitted by local mosquitoes.



Zika is a virus that caus-

es certain birth defects. It is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. It can also be transmitted sexually from one partner to another. Often when someone is infected with the virus they will show mild symptoms (fever, rash, headache, muscle pain) or no symptoms at all. Currently, there is no vaccine or medicine to treat Zika, so learning how to protect yourself from the virus is important. Workers that spend their

days outside are no strangers to mosquito bites. The number one tool that can be used to protect from bites is insect repellent. Use it on a daily basis and reapply as directed throughout the day. Wear clothing that covers hands, arms, legs and other exposed skin. Items of clothing should be treated with insect repellent such as permethrin. Also, be aware of items that hold water, as this is where mosquitoes are most likely to lay eggs. Buckets, planters and trash containers that gather water should be emptied and scrubbed once a week to avoid these nests.

For up-to-date information on Zika and how to prevent infection visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Zika website at www.cdc.gov/zika.

Member News

Rudy Armenta joined **Plaza Construction** as Vice President of Operations in its Southeast Regional office located in Miami. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Florida International University.

"Rudy Armenta is a proven team leader who has successfully delivered major construction projects, plus he brings risk management expertise in a diversity of market sectors as we continue to grow our organization," said Brad Meltzer, President of Plaza Construction's Southeast Region.

Michael Lanciault and Giovanna Alessi-Suarez have joined **Gulf Building LLC** as Vice President of Preconstruction and Vice President of Marketing, respectively. Lanciault, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Building Construction from the University of Florida, oversees preconstruction. Alessi-Suarez, who has 23 years of marketing experience and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Florida Atlantic University, directs marketing as the company adds commercial, government and residential clients.

"Michael and Giovanna play vital roles in our expansion plans by managing large-scale projects and adding customers in the educational, governmental, hotel, industrial, medical and office sectors," said John Scherer, President and CEO of Gulf Building LLC.

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Rudy Armenta



Michael Lanciault



Giovanna Alessi-Suarez

In This Issue

- Outdoor Workers: Beware of Zika Outbreak
- Member News
- Taking the Greed Out of Business
- OSHA Increases Maximum Penalties
- Bowling Challenge Pictures

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 Kaufman Lynn Construction, will be held on Thursday, August 18, 7:30 a.m. at the Marriott on Okeechobee in West Palm Beach.

Taking the Greed Out of Business

Insurance Office of America, established in 1988 by John Ritenour, is an insurance company with over 50 locations in the



INSURANCE OFFICE OF AMERICA

Unites States and London, England. When IOA was established in Apopka, FL it was originally named "Insurance Office of Florida." When a branch opened in New Jersey, it was renamed Insurance Office of America. Today, IOA employs over 1000 people nationwide. Frank Pulcini, founding partner of

IOA South Florida, is a CRIS (Construction Risk and Insurance Specialist) certified and offers many insurance services to the construction industry including benefits, risk management, captives, wrap and CIP Management. He has over 30 years of risk management experience including product related expert witness work and litigation management.

IOA is a privately held insurance firm. This means that unlike other companies that have to justify margins to shareholders, IOA can focus on more important things like building long-term mutually beneficial relationships with clients and taking the greed out of business.

Insurance Office of

America is a company that is driven by relationships. IOA values relationships it forms clients as well as employees and the community. IOA is an employee owned company that invests in its people. In addition to providing ownership through an employee stock program, IOA provides a fun work atmosphere, opportunities for career growth, a generous benefits program and their Helping Hands program, which assists employees that find themselves in temporary need. IOA recognizes that happy and healthy team members provide the best service. They also believe that how they serve each other is a reflection of how they will serve their clients.

In addition to providing help to employees, IOA also maintains a social responsibility to local charitable organizations. Their charitable endeavors include children, education, health & wellness, animals, social services, entrepreneurship mentoring, financial empowerment and financial literacy. Frank Pulcini serves on the board of Construction Angels.

Insurance Office of America is a longtime member of CASF and Frank Pulcini finds many benefits from participation in CASF events. Not only does he meet new prospects from attending these events, but he is also able to drive interest towards his company by sponsoring events geared towards safety.

For more information on the services that IOA offers, call their office at 800-243-6892 or visit their website at www.ioausa.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.

OSHA Increases Maximum Penalties

For the first time since 1990, OSHA is increasing the monetary penalties for safety violations. The Bipartisan Act of 2015, passed by Congress in November of last year, requires all federal agencies to increase penalties due to inflation. This increase will be effective August 1, 2016. The initial increase to the monetary penalties will be a “catch up” adjustment based on the percentage difference of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in October 2015 and October 1990. After the initial adjustment OSHA will be required to adjust penalties each year based on the percentage increase in CPI.

On July 1, OSHA published the final rule to the penalty adjustments. The new maximum penalties are a 78% increase from the current maximum penalties. Serious, Other-Than-Serious and Posting Requirements violations will increase from \$7,000 to \$12,471. Failure to Abate violations will increase from \$7,000 per day beyond the abatement date to \$12,471. Willful or Repeated violations will increase from \$70,000 to \$124,709. Although the new penalties do not go into effect until August 1, any penalties received from an inspection before that date will be subject

to new newly adjusted penalties under the Act.

The newly increased penalties can no longer be seen as just the cost of doing business. Employers have always been responsible for providing safe working conditions for all employees. The monetary increase is proof that OSHA is dedicated to enforce their mission and punish employers that are not following the rules. Now, more than ever, it's important to make sure that all employers are providing a safe work environment for their employees to ensure their safety and avoid the higher OSHA penalties.

Each year, OSHA releases a list of the ten most commonly cited penalties. Taking a look at these hazards in your jobsite can help to correct issues in your safety program that you weren't aware even existed. The top 10 most cited penalties for 2015 were:

1. Fall Protection
2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout)
6. Powered Industrial Trucks
7. Ladders
8. Electrical Wiring Methods
9. Machine Guarding
10. Electrical (General Requirements)

Although the list is not all encompassing, addressing these common

citations is a great place to start when ensuring that employees are well informed about how to handle each of these hazards in the workplace. Also, be sure that training for each employee is documented and readily available. Accurate documentation can make or break you when OSHA is looking for safety violations.

It would also be beneficial to consider OSHA's on site-consultation program, which offers free and confidential safety and occupational health advice to businesses. This program is a great way to find out

about potential hazards in your workplace without worrying about the consequences that typically arise from a routine OSHA inspection. Not only will this aid in preventing monetary penalties but it will lower injury rates. This consultation is confidential and will not be reported to OSHA inspection staff. Your only obligation is to correct safety hazards found during the inspection in a timely manner. These consultations are voluntary so they must be requested. To request a free consultation, call the USF Safety Florida Consultation program at 866-273-1105.



7th Annual CASF Bowling Challenge

Strikes @ Boca, June 29, 2016



**1st Place—Proletto Painting
Best Individual Score—David Pomper**



**2nd Place—Central
Broward Construction**



**3rd Place—John Moriarty &
Associates**



**Best Bowling Shirts—PWI
Construction**

