

## Prices Increase from Last Year

The cost of key construction materials increased in August and year-to-year, resuming a trend that has forced contractors to pay more for materials even as competitive pressures restrain prices for finished projects, according to an analysis of federal figures released by AGC of America.

"After years of depressed construction activity, the last thing contractors need is to see materials price increases further erode their already slim margins," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer.

The producer price index for inputs to construction-covering materials that go

into every type of project, plus items consumed by contractors such as diesel fuel-increased 1.0 percent from a year earlier. The price increases resume a longer-term trend that is forcing contractors to pay more for materials even as they struggle to raise prices for finished projects.

The price index for diesel fuel jumped 8.7 % in August and 5.2 % from a year ago. Prices for gypsum products are up 17.8 %. Lumber and plywood costs increased by 6.9 % compared to August 2011.

To make matters worse, the looming threat of substantial tax increases have dampened demand for new construction projects.

## Align Your Firm with the Best

Put your company's name up there with the best tradesmen in the industry and help underwrite costs for trophies and video presentation at the *54th Annual Craftsmanship Awards Banquet* on November 8. "This is a \$30,000 event," explained John Custer, Chairman of the Craftsmanship Awards Committee, "and if we don't have the support of membership to help recognize the "Best" in our business the program will suffer."

To date, **Balfour Beatty Construction, Central Florida Equipment, Miller Construction, Steel Fabricators and Stiles Construction** have each contributed \$1,000 to support the program. That leaves a \$5,000 short-fall from past years.

\$1,000, \$500 and \$250 sponsorships are available. Call Genna at 954-974-6333 to secure Ad space in both the printed and video programs and show your support.

## Member News

**Plaza Construction** recently completed two Miami restaurants, including the internationally-acclaimed Estiatorio Milos by Costas Spiliadis ("Milos") in South Beach, and Giraffas at Midtown, Plaza's second of five Brazilian fast-casual Giraffas restaurants.

Plaza is also constructing Giraffas at Dadeland which is slated for completion in September, Giraffas at Pembroke Pines completing in October, and Giraffas Doral which is slated for completion in December.

This spring, the Performing Arts Center Authority selected the joint venture **Stiles/Miller, LLC** for their construction project. The joint venture partners - **Stiles Construction Co.** and **Miller Construction Co.** have joined forces for the first time to handle this landmark project, according to CEOs Terry Stiles and Tom Miller.

Phased and meticulously planned to keep the Center's full schedule of performances running smoothly, the 18-month upgrade will restore the 20 year-old venue to state-of-the-art status with the addition of an array of new amenities. The project includes the construction of a spectacular two-story waterfront pavilion and terraced dining areas on the hillside between the Center and the New River, plus a three-story arts education wing.

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"Milos" in South Beach



Tom Miller & Terry Stiles



Broward Performing Arts Center

INSIDE:

**3rd Annual Pool Tournament Pictures**

# Second Generation Steel Fabricators

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 Suffolk, will be held on Thursday, October 18, 7:30 a.m. at Shula's Hotel in Miami Lakes.



Steel Fabricators, LLC was founded in 1962 by Hank Langsenkamp, who at the time felt there was an absence of steel fabrication companies in the marketplace, so he decided to start one himself. The company is now being run by his son Kurt. Their main headquarters is located in Fort Lauderdale with an additional sales office in Orlando; however, they do work throughout Florida and the Caribbean Basin. Steel Fab provides a full range of steel design, engineering, fabrication, and erection services to owners, general contractors and construction managers for government, commercial and industrial facilities.

The main office in Fort Lauderdale currently employs approximately 80 shop production personnel, 70 field/ ironworkers, and an

office staff of about 29. A few key employees include President Kurt Langsenkamp, VP of Sales Sid Blaauw, Senior Sales Executive Frank Ladisa and Outside Sales Executive Luis M. Preiss, who has been with the company for 5 years. "One of the best things about working at Steel Fabricators is the family atmosphere. Everyone is willing to help one another out to ensure the successful completion of a project," explains Preiss.

The fact that Steel Fab will never shy away from a complicated job is just one of the ways they stand out from other fabricators. They were also one of the first users of BIM modeling (3 dimensional) detailing software (SDS2 and Teckla) that can import framing information directly from the designer's 3D Revit Model and even export actu-

al section sizes and locations. They have the combined ability to produce over 125,000 tons of structural steel annually from their four structural fabrication facilities and have Bonding Capacity of \$200 million and \$50 million for a single project.

One of the company's most significant moments in the last five years was being selected as the steel fabricator and erector for the Nassau Lynden Pindling Airport project, which was complex both in design and execution. A few additional projects they are extremely proud of include the Expedition Everest at Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Max Planck Institute of Technology, Duval County Courthouse, Horace O'Bryant Middle School in Key West, Northboro Elementary School Phase 2 in West Palm Beach, and the Bethesda West Hospital in Boynton Beach.

Steel Fabricators has been a member of CASF since 1964 and continues to support the association through sponsorships and attendance at most of the networking events. "CASF keeps all divisions of construction well informed and provides many excellent networking opportunities. They have helped our company immensely by hosting events where decision makers that we may have not met before are present," expresses Preiss.

Steel Fabricators, LLC's headquarters are located at 721 NE 44th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334. For more information call 954-772-0440 or visit [www.sfab.com](http://www.sfab.com).

## CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION of South Florida

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# Safety Training through Online Learning

By Steve Bowers, and Pete Rice, ClickSafety

Companies that establish and maintain a consistent and comprehensive safety training culture can reduce their exposure to litigation, as well as lower or control their experience modification rate, insurance costs, workers' compensation claims and lost man-hours. Amid pressure from the courts and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Multi-Employer Citation Policy, the role of both safety professionals and safety training is more crucial than ever.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the construction industry has seen marked improvement in safety performance during the last two decades. In 1979, the recordable injury rate (RIR) was 16.2 per 100 workers, equating to 16 percent of the workforce suffering injuries that required treatment beyond first aid. By 1992, the RIR dropped 20 percent to 13.1 percent. Since then, the industry's RIR has dropped significantly, posting an all-time low of 4 percent in 2010. This not only represents a remarkable drop of 71 percent, but for the first time since such records have been kept, the construction industry posted a lower injury rate than the manufacturing industry.

Since 1992, the industry's day's away case rate (DACR) has dropped 71 percent—from 530 cases to 150 cases per 10,000 workers in 2010. In terms of fatalities, the construction industry accounted for 14.1 deaths per 100,000 employ-

ees in 1992. During the following 13 years, the industry lowered its death rate 21 percent to 11.1 percent.

Knowing this, the question becomes what can industry leaders do to address the fatality rate and continue to prevent minor or disabling injuries? There is no silver bullet; every employer, supervisor and employee must commit to working incident-free and recognize that workplace injuries and fatalities are not tolerated at any level. Additionally, all construction employers should commit to the adoption and implementation of an effective safety or injury and illness prevention program.

An effective safety program encompasses universal interventions that can substantially reduce the number and severity of workplace injuries. Many states have requirements or voluntary guidelines for such programs, and OSHA has a dedicated website ([www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov), search for words "IIPP Programs") for employers interested in developing or improving their programs.

Additionally, new e-learning tools offer effective safety training. Online training—given its widespread availability, flexibility, accessibility and affordability—can be extremely beneficial in communicating with large and diverse teams to meet safety requirements and promote a safe job environment. With access to Internet-based training, many more workers can be trained without taking time from the jobsite. Other issues associated with classroom training can be avoided, including inconsis-

tency of content and presenter delivery, travel requirements, lack of facilities and poor timing.

Online training can range from site orientation and initial skills training to OSHA compliance or specific coursework targeting dangerous activities that can cause injuries or fatalities.

For optimum effectiveness in online training, employers should check that:

- ♦ the content is relevant, industry-specific and created by credentialed individuals;
- ♦ courses are self-paced and provide structure to increase competency, compliance and retention;

- ♦ the application is easy to use with meaningful interactivity;

- ♦ the breadth of the course library serves specific industry and general industry needs; and

- ♦ Students can easily access courses and customer support.

There is no single answer to ensuring a 100% safe environment, but effective use of tools, including online safety training, can help employers train more workers at a faster rate, and move the industry further toward a zero-accident and zero-fatality environment.

About the Authors:

Steve Bowers, C.S.P. and Pete Rice, C.I.H., C.S.P., are part of ClickSafety's content team and are actively involved in building online safety courses. For more information, email [sbowers@ClickSafety.com](mailto:sbowers@ClickSafety.com) or [price@ClickSafety.com](mailto:price@ClickSafety.com) or go online to [www.ClickSafety.com](http://www.ClickSafety.com).



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ROUTE TO:

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## Scholarship Pool Tournament at the Billiard Club

