

Fall 2021

OFF THE WALL WC&C

An Industry Publication by the Wall Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York

**Robot Assistants' May Help
Reinvent Construction Industry
—page 16**

**Summit One Vanderbilt
see page 20**

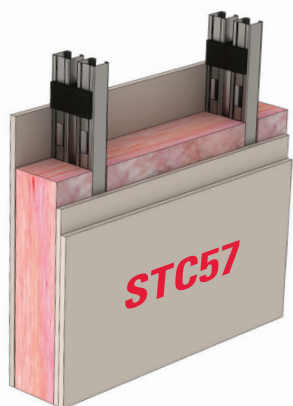
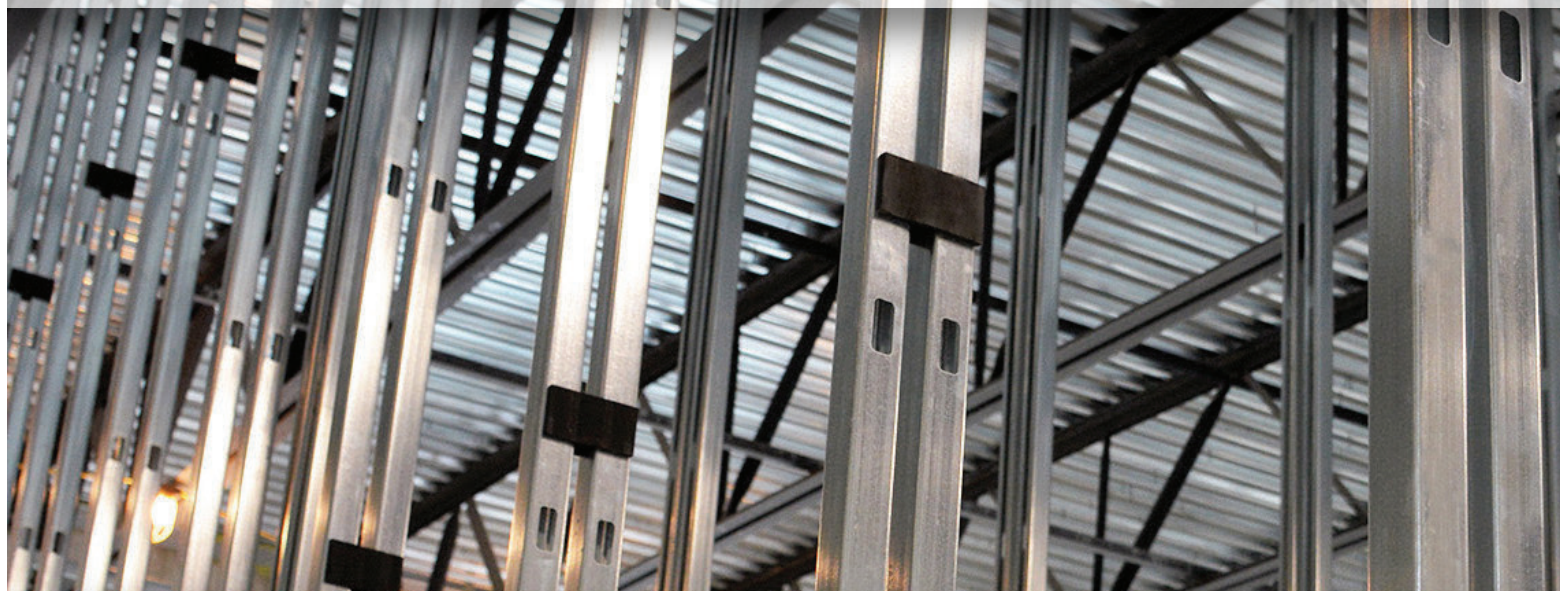


**Photos From 2021 WCC
Barbecue on pages 12—16**

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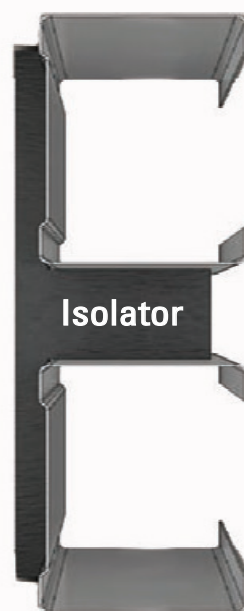


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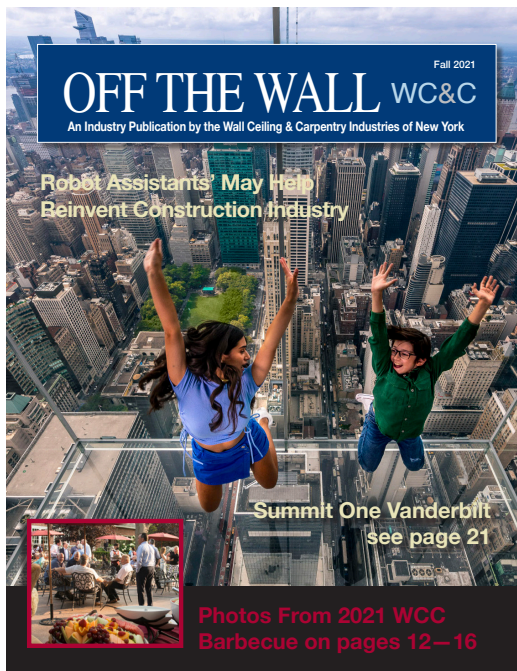
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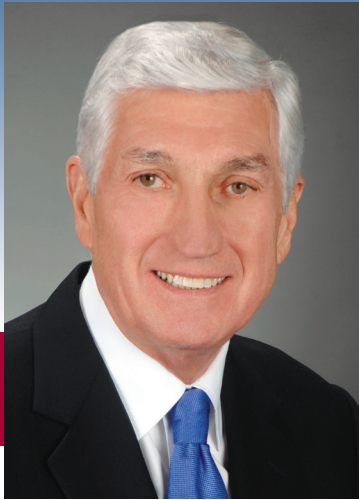
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*From the
Executive Director
John DeLollis*

The HERO Act Webinar and More

The New York Health and Essential Rights Act (NY HERO Act) was signed into law last May 5. It mandates extensive new workplace health and safety protections in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the NY HERO Act is to protect employees against exposure and disease during a future airborne infectious disease outbreak.

On October 26th our association hosted a detailed webinar on the HERO Act in partnership with construction law firm Welby, Brady & Greenblatt. Thomas Tripodianos, a partner at that firm, offered a clear presentation of the HERO legislation, its mandates and how it affects your business. It's one example of how contractor requirements caused by COVID-19 are continuously changing. Keeping up to date is of major importance. If you were not able to participate, the webinar is available for download at our website.

During the summer, as the pandemic seemed to be waning, we were able to hold two events we couldn't enjoy last year — the Annual WC&C Golf Outing and our eagerly anticipated WC&C Barbecue. While attendance at each was significantly lower than usual, both were great successes as our members were once again able to meet in person and have face-to-face conversations. Photos from the Barbecue are in this issue of Off The Wall.

A WC&C member contractor was Spotlighted in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of The Carpenter, the New York District Council magazine. Creative Construction Services founder and CEO Hanson James, a minority union contractor has been working since 2017 on East Side Access. His story is interesting and informative. Take a look at it.

—Be safe. John

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From the President Michael Weber

Safety Matters

Construction workers are involved in many activities that could expose them to dangerous hazards, such as unguarded machinery, falling from rooftops, ladders and scaffolds, being hit by heavy equipment, electrocutions, silica dust, and asbestos.

Regardless of developments in construction safety equipment, technology and training, the construction industry continues to face high rates of fatal and non-fatal injuries and accidents among its workers.

Recently, New York City's "zero tolerance" safety sweeps resulted in thousands of violations and nearly 1,500 stop work orders issued at construction sites across the five boroughs to prevent worker falls and other injuries. Safety inspectors visited about 7,500 building construction sites. They issued more than 3,600 violations to contractors for failing to keep sites safe. The sweep came after seven fatalities at New York City construction sites happened in the first five months of this year.

Ensuring maximum safety requires investment in appropriate education for workers. For example, techniques like "3 points of contact" help reduce falls, which are the leading cause of death and injury among construction workers. In the meantime, an accurate understanding of equipment, like aerial lifts or cranes, is vital to avoid accidents involving falling

objects or collisions. Lastly, better communication, whether with a safety plan, or particular communication like hand signals.

OSHA recommends that every single employee receives sufficient and comprehensive training to learn how to follow OSHA compliance requirements. Employees should be able to access the OSHA construction safety manual for future reference and receive a personal copy of all policies, procedures, and safety rules that the company enforces.

Ask yourself the following questions at work:

- Do I know the safety procedures for this job or task? Are they adequate? Do I really understand them?
- What personal protective equipment do I need? Is it in good condition? Is it adequate?
- What tools and other equipment do I need to do the job safely? Are they the correct ones? Are they in good condition? Do I know how to use them?
- Are there other risks to my safety or the safety of others? What if something happens quickly or unexpectedly? Do I know how to respond to avoid injury?

The human mind is one of the fastest processors of information. We should be constantly thinking about safety.

— Michael Weber



It's The Law

By Mark A. Rosen

Mark A. Rosen is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc. He is a partner in the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP. Mark practices in the areas of construction and contract law, public contract law, arbitration, surety, and general commercial litigation. He can be reached at mrosen@mdmc-law.com.

OSHA Sends Proposed Emergency Standard Implementing Mandatory Covid 19 Vaccination or Weekly Testing For Companies With 100+ Employees To White House For Approval

On September 9, 2021 President Biden directed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") to require companies with 100 or more employees to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations or weekly testing as part of the President's new COVID-19 action plan. On October 12, 2021, OSHA submitted a proposed emergency temporary standard ("ETS") to the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs ("OIRA") to implement those directives.

Once approved the ETS will take relatively immediate affect while it is subject to comment in the Federal Register. It is expected that the ETS

will provide for paid time off for employees to get vaccinated (New York State already has a statute providing for paid time off to get vaccinated) and for paid time off if the employee has a reaction to the vaccination. How the ETS will address other issues such as how the 100 plus employee threshold trigger will be calculated and who will bear the cost of weekly testing, the employer or the employee, remain to be seen. •

OIRA can sometimes take weeks for even months to review and approve such proposed rules and standards, the expectation is that it will move quickly in this case. •

NSC Survey: 90% of Employers Say ‘Impairment’ at Work Means More than Just Substances

NSC urges employers to take a broader approach to addressing workplace impairment, which can include mental distress.

A recent National Safety Council survey shows 90% of employers are concerned about mental health and chronic stress impacting fitness for duty – in addition to persistent concerns around legal and illicit substance misuse. In response, NSC is becoming the first national organization to call on employers to consider far more than substance misuse when addressing “workplace impairment.” NSC urges that employer policies and procedures outline “workplace impairment” as anything that could impede one’s ability to function normally or safely as a result of a number of factors – from chemical substances, such as alcohol, opioids or cannabis, to physical factors like fatigue, as well as experiencing mental distress and social factors like stress.

The survey data underscore how the pandemic has impacted workplace safety. In expanding what it means to be impaired in the workplace, NSC aims to reshape the national narrative and help employers adjust internal policies and programs accordingly.

The Council began a holistic assessment of “workplace impairment” in 2020 as the pandemic raged, and NSC found 93% of employers agreed with a broader description– one that extends beyond substances to include health and wellbeing.

“The National Safety Council has been the nation’s safety watchdog for more than 100 years, identifying emerging

issues and developing resources to help keep workers safe from the workplace to anyplace,” said Lorraine Martin, NSC president and CEO. “We believe the issue of impairment is multifaceted and therefore requires an approach that recognizes all aspects of it. We urge employers to join us in looking at impairment through the new lens that our current moment demands.”

Impairment has been a workplace safety issue for decades. The pandemic, however, has forced a new era of workplace safety, one in which employers are grappling with increased substance use and misuse, as well as increased mental health distress, including depression and anxiety – medical conditions that frequently are interrelated. In particular, the pandemic has worsened the country’s opioid crisis, which has been challenging employers for several years. In the 12-month period ending in May 2020, there were 81,000 fatal drug overdoses – the highest number ever recorded.

More than half of employers surveyed by NSC – 52% – said they know impairment is decreasing the safety of their workforce, while 77% of respondents view impairment as an important consideration when determining an employee’s fitness for duty. While 70% of employers said they discuss substance impairment during employee onboarding, only 47% discuss other forms of impairment, such as fatigue, mental health and stress. In [previous research](#), NSC found that tired, fatigued employees have negatively impacted 90% of employers.

No matter what’s keeping employees from working or driving safely, NSC stands ready to help employers deal with the impacts of impairment in the workplace with a robust offering of free resources and tools to help businesses manage these emerging issues. Offerings include cost calculators to understand the business case around [substance misuse](#) and [fatigue](#) in the workplace and toolkits to implement strategies to proactively address [opioids](#) and [fatigue](#).

Additionally, NSC is tackling mental health in the workplace and providing guidance for employers to effectively address. Employers can visit nsc.org/safer for playbooks, guides and other resources to help address mental health and wellbeing as part of the Council’s SAFER effort. •

Sweeping Updates To NYC Construction And Building Regulations

Bill Passed by City Council to Update Construction Codes Keeps NYC at The Forefront of Building Safety and Innovation

The New York City Department of Buildings marked the official passage of major legislation in the City Council to update the city's Construction Codes. This comprehensive revision to the Codes contains over 600 major updates, and thousands of smaller changes, intended to improve safety for our fellow New Yorkers, and incorporate the latest

in building technologies. The new Codes use the highest international standards for the design, construction and maintenance of buildings as a baseline, while continuing our city's proud tradition of implementing additional enhancements to ensure we have among the strongest building regulations anywhere in the world.



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“These updated Codes provide a solid foundation on which the future of our city will be built,” said Buildings Commissioner Melanie E. La Rocca. “I want to thank my colleagues at DOB, along with the hundreds of government and industry experts that volunteered their time on our Code Revision Committees, who worked tirelessly to advance these Codes. Those efforts will make our built environment safer for everyone living, working and visiting in our great city. Looking further afield, it is my hope that these Codes will also serve as a model for other cities, looking to build their own more resilient and sustainable future.”

New York City’s Building Code is one of the nation’s earliest and most comprehensive set of rules regarding construction in both new and existing buildings. Updated regularly, our Codes

set a strong framework for how buildings are designed and maintained in our unique urban environment. The code revisions approved today are the first holistic update to the entire set of NYC Administrative, Plumbing, Building, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Codes since 2014. The revisions were drafted by technical committees comprised of engineers, architects, attorneys, planners, tradespeople, representatives of the construction industry, labor, real estate industry, utility companies, as well as DOB and interagency stakeholders. Regulations in our Codes here in New York City frequently inform model codes on the national and international levels.

Revision highlights included in the updated Codes are available at the DOB website. •

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A group of people are gathered at an outdoor barbeque event. In the foreground, a large silver platter is filled with a variety of fresh fruits, including watermelon slices, cantaloupe, honeydew, grapes, and raspberries. In the background, several people are seated at tables under large red umbrellas. A waiter in a red vest and black mask is serving a tray. The setting is outdoors with trees and a brick building in the background.

WC&C

BARBECUE









Robot Assistants' May Help Reinvent Construction Industry

By Gabe Cherry
College of Engineering, University of Michigan

With the aim of enabling robots to learn from human partners on construction sites, the National Science Foundation is providing \$2 million to a University of Michigan-led research team.

Robots are anticipated to make the global construction industry safer and more attractive to workers, easing a worker shortage in the United States.

For decades, construction has been one of the most dangerous and least efficient human endeavors. It lags far behind other parts of the economy in productivity and struggles to attract workers to jobs that are often perceived as backbreaking. In collaboration with the University of Florida and Washington State University, researchers from the College of Engineering and A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning hope to change that.

Carol Menassa, the lead principal investigator of the research team and an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the College of Engineering, said using automation and robotics on construction sites is critical if construction is to benefit from the productivity gains that have reshaped other industries, like manufacturing.

“Construction is much more dynamic and unpredictable than an environment like a factory, so we’re working to redefine the balance between human and robot workers,” she said. “Humans and robots need to coexist, and that’s the premise of what we’re doing right now.”

The three-year project will pair humans with “interactive robot assistants” that can learn from humans through watching and listening — much like human apprentices would. The robots could eventually make construction work less dangerous and strenuous for humans while still enabling us to call the shots and solve problems.

By the end of the project, the team plans to deliver a machine learning system that will enable that learning through natural interaction, as well as a series of freely available educational tools that will train human workers to use those systems effectively. The project also includes outreach to K-12 schools to build awareness and interest in the new opportunities presented by a revamped construction field.

In this vision for the future, robots would do physically strenuous tasks such as lifting bricks or moving sheets of drywall, for example, while humans could figure out the best way to do a particular task or make adjustments when the built structure needs to deviate from the original plan. The research team already has developed an experimental system that enables humans and robots to collaborate on simple tasks like placing drywall panels and ceiling tiles.

“Besides the direct benefits to the construction industry, this research has the potential to have a broader impact on our built environment,” said Arash Adel, a co-principal investigator on the project and an assistant professor of architecture and urban planning at the Taubman College.

“By taking advantage of the capabilities of the robots, such as their precision for performing construction tasks according to the digital blueprint of the building, and their ability to perform nonstandard assembly procedures, this research might open up opportunities for the feasible construction of high-quality novel architectures that are too expensive or not feasible entirely with current construction practices.”

The system uses a virtual-reality copy of both the jobsite and the robot (called a real-time, process level Digital Twin), through which the human operator interacts with an Oculus-style VR headset, seeing a video game-like clone of the workspace.

Using a joystick-style controller and a pointer, the human shows the system what needs to be done, for example, picking up a sheet of drywall and aligning

it on the studded wall. Based on these instructions, the robot devises the most efficient way to make it happen and develops a sequence of actions called a motion plan. It then demonstrates its plan to the

tion as dirty and dangerous.

“A job where you’re going to blow out your shoulders in a few years lifting masonry blocks, that’s a hard sell,” he said. “We’re trying to attract a wider range of people to the trades, people who are interested in technology. When you take the burden of lifting off people, we can attract new workers and also enable our current workers to extend their careers.”



The construction firm Barton Malow already uses simple robots on some job sites, such as this MULE, which helps workers place retaining wall block. (Photo courtesy Construction Robotics)

operator on-screen in the virtual copy of the jobsite.

At this point, it’s up to the human to determine whether the proposed plan will get the job done. They can either approve the plan as-is, make changes or demand a completely new plan. When the plan is agreed upon, the human tells the robot to make it happen, and then watches in near-real time as the robot does the work. The machine-learning component will enable the robot to remember corrections made by the human partner so the next drywall panel goes up faster.

The team is collaborating with industry partners, including Michigan firm Barton Malow. Barton Malow already uses simple robots that mortar and place bricks in the exterior walls of large buildings.

Daniel Stone, Barton Malow’s director of innovation, is hopeful that increased use of technology could help stem a long-standing labor shortage, caused by the aging out of baby boomers and the industry’s reputa-

tion as dirty and dangerous. “The future of construction work in particular is a win-win-win only if it is a fruitful human robot partnership and collaboration moving forward,” said Vineet Kamat, a co-principal investigator on the project and a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the College of Engineering.

“So we’re working to adapt current training methods, which use a combination of classroom training and jobsite training with a master construction worker who provides hands-on training.”

Kamat said the new training might include training in a classroom, on the jobsite and in a lab, where humans could interact with robots in a virtual reality environment. The virtual reality experience is key, since in the future, human and robot workers may not always be in the same physical space. By combining on-site and virtual training, workers can learn how their virtual commands translate into physical action and how to work with a robotic assistant to improvise when things don’t go as planned. •

Study Reveals Influence of Pandemic, New Technology and Company Size on Construction Safety Management

Report from Dodge Data & Construction reveals how safety management is evolving to respond to the current era while still demonstrating the business value of investing in safety.

COVID-19 and new technologies are creating significant changes in how contractors manage safety, according to a new study from Dodge Data & Analytics. There are stark variations in how companies of different sizes are responding, with small employers lagging behind their larger peers.

“They still see that making these investments has positive implications not only for their workers, but for their projects and their businesses.”

Safety Management in the Construction Industry 2021 SmartMarket Report, shows how contractors and workers are adapting well-established principles of safety management to respond to the pandemic and are beginning to take advantage of increased access to real-time data. The report was published with the support of The Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) and Newmetrix.

Safety Management in the Construction Industry 2021 documents how COVID-19 accelerated existing shifts in contractors’ approaches. More than one in three contractors (35%) increased online training over the past 12 months, and nearly two-thirds (63%) of contractors now use it. More than 75% of the contractors who reported using more online training

attributed that growth either partly or completely to COVID-19. However, while 96% of large employers with 100 or more workers have developed a written plan to protect jobsite workers from the spread of COVID-19, only 57% of employers with less than 20 employees had written plans.

An even bigger trend resulting from COVID-19 is the greater use of health and wellness measures. While these measures have long been a part of construction safety, the study found that many new measures have been adopted during the pandemic. Nearly two-thirds (61%) of contractors plan to keep some of these measures after the pandemic subsides, although respondents varied widely in their views of which practices will continue.

The study benchmarks current use of health and wellness programs for workers on the job site and in company offices. Between 40% to 50% of contractors offer their workers mental health services, including alcohol and substance abuse programs, but only about 25% offer stress management or smoking cessation programs. Again, large contractors were significantly more likely to take this step than small contractors. These statistics suggest both wide recognition of the value of these programs and opportunities for much wider adoption.

“COVID-19 has emphasized that worker safety and health are crucial to successful construction,” said Chris Trahan Cain, CPWR’s executive director. “This report shows that contractors of all sizes must continue addressing persistent concerns like falls and ergonomics at the same time they respond to COVID-19 through planning, training, and advances in technology.”

The report also shows that the construction industry

continues to move towards a data-driven approach for managing safety.

One in five contractors (19%) rank making better use of the safety data they currently collect as one of the top means of improving their safety program.

A slightly higher share believes that the use of observational data from jobsite imagery (26%) and of predictive analytics (21%) is essential to a world-class safety program.

The study also points to the likelihood for wider adoption of a data-driven approach. Contractors identified several technologies as most likely to improve safety in the future, including wearable sensors, predictive analytics and visual monitoring with artificial intelligence (AI). Currently only about 10% of contractors are using wearable sensors or predictive analytics, and only 5% use visual monitoring with AI. Forty-one percent of small employers do not currently use data

for their safety programs, but 96% of larger companies do. Overall, the share who expect to implement these technologies in the next three years is more than double those who currently do.

The study emphasizes that contractors are continuing their existing safety practices. Both the practices and the benefits from their use — including the ability to negotiate better insurance terms, improved standing in the industry and improved ability to bring in new work — remain remarkably consistent with previous SmartMarket Reports.

“Despite the new requirements and challenges brought about by having to deal with COVID-19, the study findings demonstrate contractor commitments to their top safety practices,” says Steve Jones, Senior Director of Industry Insights at Dodge Data & Analytics. “They still see that making these investments has positive implications not only for their workers, but for their projects and their businesses.” •

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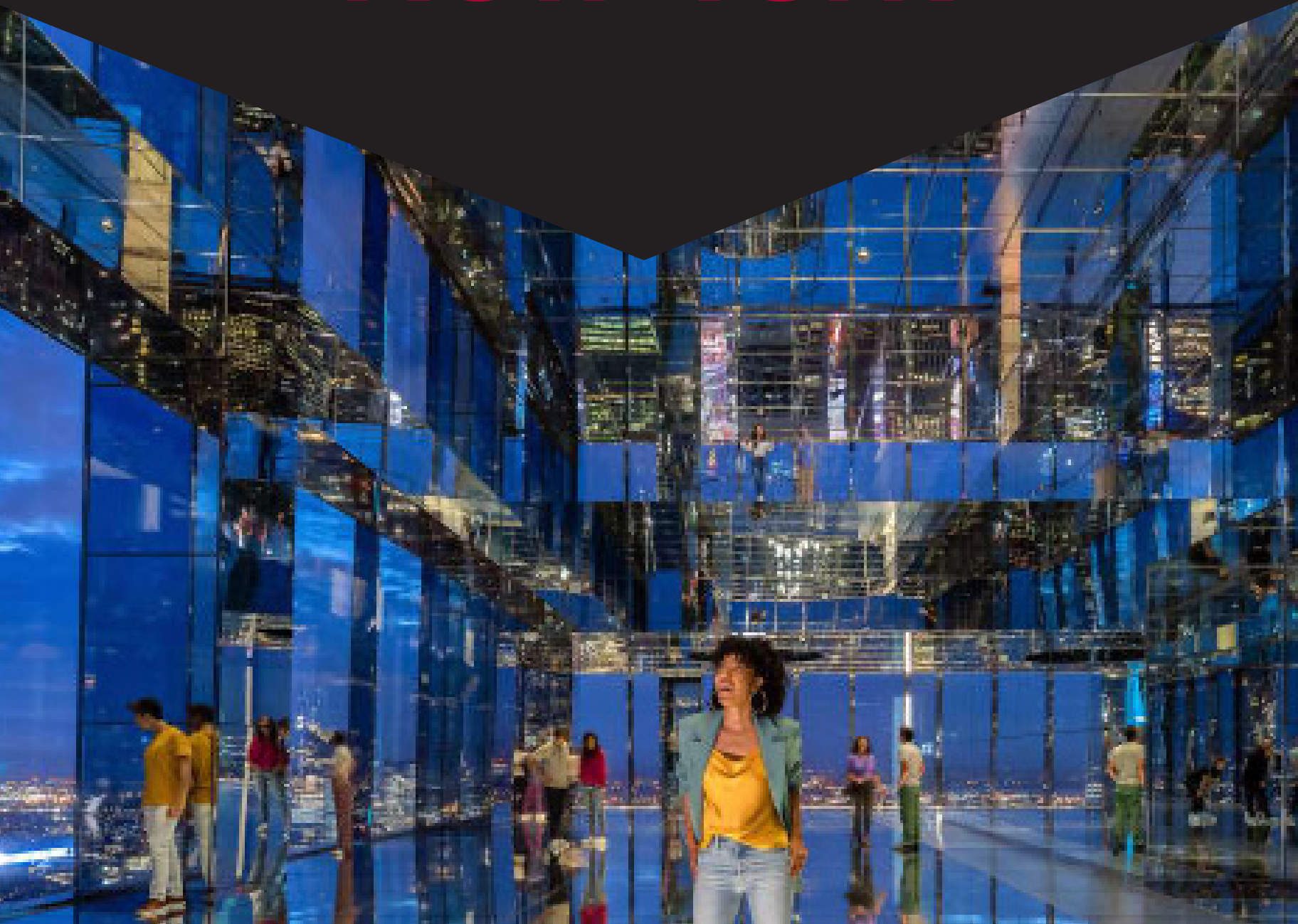
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Vanderbilt's LEVITATION sky boxes allow guests to step out from the envelope of the building and stand on transparent glass 1,063 feet above Madison Avenue, with the hustle and bustle of city streets directly beneath them.

For the extreme thrill seeker, SUMMIT One Vanderbilt's ASCENT, an all-glass elevator with a transparent glass floor, will take guests from the terrace level up the side of the building, to over 1,200 feet (364 meters), nesting at the highest viewing point in mid-town Manhattan.

Each of the attractions form part of the 65,000-square-foot entertainment area and observation deck located at the peak of One Vanderbilt, a \$3.3 billion development designed by architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates.

At 1,401 feet high, the building is the fourth tallest in New York City. The tallest is One World Trade Center, which measures 1,776 feet.

Photos courtesy S.L. Green





Dodge Data & Analytics Launches Suite of Microsites for Construction Professionals

Targeted Industry Newsfeeds and Weekly Newsletters Fueled by Company's ACCELERATE Marketing Solutions Services

Dodge Data & Analytics and The Blue Book announced plans to publish a suite of four microsites, each with a unique editorial focus designed to serve different sectors of the construction industry. “With these microsites, we hope to serve a diverse audience of architects, contractors, developers, engineers, and other professionals who are united in the desire for a more efficient, economical, healthy, sustainable and just way of building.”

The first of the four microsites recently launched, is a new content outlet that celebrates the art and science of smarter building. COLUMN is an editorial destination covering the issues that matter most to building industry professionals, including technology, design, sustainability, business and finance, health, safety and wellness.

The microsites will serve as a centralized editorial space for the construction industry's most important and timely resources such as research reports, webinars, whitepapers, podcasts, executive Q&As, analysis on current events, legislation and more. Additional microsites will be announced in the coming weeks.

“COLUMN's content is built on the world-class data, analytics and industry insights of Dodge Data & Analytics and The Blue Book,” said Dave Colford, Chief Revenue Officer. “With these microsites, we hope to serve a diverse audience of architects, contractors,

developers, engineers, and other professionals who are united in the desire for a more efficient, economical, healthy, sustainable and just way of building.”

COLUMN's first sponsor, Big Ass Fans, is an American company that manufactures fans and comfort solutions for industrial, agricultural, commercial, and residential use.

The second sponsor, Nucor Corporation, is a manufacturer of steel and steel products, with operating facilities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Their Construction Solutions team is a nationwide team that is a proactive resource, leveraging Nucor's unique position in the supply chain and vast experience to assist teams at every stage of the design and construction process. Reach out today for assistance on your project challenges.

COLUMN's third initial sponsor, Andersen Windows, is an international window and door manufacturing enterprise based in Bayport, MN.

And the fourth sponsor, Hexagon PPM, serves the entire building ecosystem – spanning the entire building lifecycle – empowering customers to design, plan, build and operate buildings more profitably, and sustainably than at any time in history. With 50+ years of experience in delivering innovative software, Hexagon solutions transform disorganized and disparate data into intelligent, actionable information. This enables smarter design, construction, and operation of projects across the asset lifecycle. •



The Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation. Rendering by MIR and Studio Gang

American Natural History Museum's Expansion Tops Out On Manhattan's Upper West Side

Construction has topped out on The Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History, a 230,000-square-foot addition to the institution at 415 Columbus Avenue on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Designed by Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang with Tishman Construction Company of New York as the general contractor, the organic-looking, amorphous structure is

progressing near the corner of Columbus Avenue and West 79th Street and is surrounded by an abundance of landscaping and tall trees. The project is projected to cost around \$383 million and is aiming for LEED Gold certification.

The reinforced concrete superstructure has reached its pinnacle and work has begun on the curving exterior surfaces. Completion is slated for sometime in 2022.

Rugged Robotics Completes First Full-Scale Pilot on Consigli Site



Consigli has announced that Houston-based construction technology newcomer, Rugged Robotics has completed its first full-scale pilot on a Consigli job site. The collaboration between Consigli and Rugged is in line with Consigli's commitment to support and utilize cutting-edge technologies in an effort to advance efficiencies in the construction process.

Founded by a registered P.E. and a NASA engineer, Rugged Robotics' inaugural product tackles the challenge of field layout. Traditionally, field layout is performed using tape measures, chalk-lines, and surveying equipment to manually mark the location of walls and mechanical systems. Rugged Robotics automates this process, marking fully coordinated designs directly on to concrete floors using small robotic vehicles. Using the rover, construction workers can print much more information than typically seen on a manual layout, reduce the time spent reviewing plans, and as a result, conduct faster, more accurate installations. It also helps eliminate potential oversights and errors in the manual layout, which can impact multiple trades, and result in incorrect installation, delays, and rework.

Recently, the Rugged Robotics rover was put to the test at Cambridge Crossing – Parcel H, where Consigli is

building the new headquarters for Sanofi, one of MA's largest life science employers. At Parcel H, Rugged delivered a multi-trade layout on six floors covering more than 240,000 square ft. Their automated layout resulted in improved coordination, reduced errors, and significant time savings on the front end.

"Consigli truly believes in our solution and together, we are working to improve the construction industry," said Derrick Morse, co-founder and CEO of Rugged Robotics. "As someone who is passionate about the construction industry, it has been thrilling to be in the field and working alongside the Consigli team."

"At Consigli, our leadership and technology teams are always looking for ways to make construction projects more accurate and efficient, and maximize the allocation of resources on each site," said Jack Moran, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP and Consigli's director of VDC and Integrated Services. "We see technology as a way to support our workforce and to meet the construction demands of the future. Rugged Robotics proved its value with an automated tool that exceeded our expectations and worked in synergy with our team."

RUGGED ROBOTICS
rugged-robotics.com

Product News

Georgia-Pacific Building Products Launches DensDefy™ Liquid Barrier

Georgia-Pacific announces the launch of DensDefy™ Liquid Barrier, a fluid-applied, air- and water-resistive barrier. Once applied, DensDefy™ Liquid Barrier produces a seamless, durable membrane on exterior gypsum sheathing, wood sheathing, CMU, and concrete walls.

A new product within the DensDefy™ Products line, DensDefy™ Liquid Barrier works side-by-side with the DensElement® Barrier System and

ForceField® Weather Barrier to provide a high-performance, highly durable WRB-AB system across multiple substrates, including DensGlass® Gold Sheathing.

“DensDefy™ Liquid Barrier helps architects design effectively using a system of high-performance products, designed to work together,” said Jason Peace, vice president of marketing & product management for Georgia-Pacific Building Products.

GEORGIA PACIFIC

densdefy.com



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Bosch Power Tools Updates Tuckpointing Grinder with Focus on Power, Durability, and Dust Capture Capabilities



New high-torque grinder significantly boosts the power over the previous model. Plus, its specially designed, spring-loaded guard maximizes dust capture.

Bosch Power Tools announced a new version of its 5-inch high-powered, high torque dedicated tuckpointing grinder and dust guard. The model GWS13-52TG is designed to replace the 1775E.

This new high-torque grinder with a dust guard is designed specifically for tuckpointing. It significantly boosts the power over the previous model from 8.5-amp motor to a 13-amp motor, producing 9,300 RPM.

The GWS13-52TG is engineered for high performance and improved durability with a metal guard mounting flange collar, dust protection with directed airflow and an enclosed spring-loaded guard for maximum dust capture. The new model is ideal for tuckpointers for the removal of brick mortar.

Features include:

Motor is protected from dust and debris with epoxy-coated field windings and four-stage dust seals protect the gears and help ensure longer tool life

Constant electronic monitoring provides level

operation and reliable speed under load

A viewing window on the dust guard makes it easy to see the cutting line

1-3/8 inch dust port is designed to accommodate Bosch vacuum hose nozzles, but adapters (sold separately) are available to fit other vacuum hose nozzles

Works with Bosch PRO+GUARD Dust Solutions, an end-to-end dust-collection system that helps users move toward OSHA silica dust compliance

Tool-free guard adjustment allows full access to the diamond blade for quick and easy blade changes

Specially designed, spring-loaded guard maximizes dust capture during mortar or concrete cutting applications, even during plunge cuts.

BOSCH TOOLS

boschtools.com

ClarkDietrich Grows Fire-Related Head-of-Wall Product Line With New Ultrabead

Newly Updated Website Taxonomy Simplifies Head-of-Wall Product Selection

ClarkDietrich has expanded its family of head-of-wall products with the addition of UltraBEAD, a smoke, fire and sound-rated bead that gives architects and specifiers an efficient, high-performance solution for fire-stopping and acoustical control applications. ClarkDietrich UltraBEAD features a proprietary compressible foam that provides smoke, fire and sound containment in fire-resistant joint systems in or between fire-resistance-rated walls and floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assemblies. Head-of-wall assemblies using UltraBEAD have been tested and provide STC ratings of up to 52. Additional details are available [here](#).

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When used in conjunction with UltraTRAK slotted deflection track or Deep Leg deflection tracks, ClarkDietrich UltraBEAD provides a 1 or 2 hour fire-rated assembly for a ¾" max joint and is UL 2079-Fifth Edition compliant. UltraBEAD is also available with Rip Bead® to create a crisp finished edge.

Because head-of-wall assemblies and solutions can be confusing, ClarkDietrich has added another tool to their website to help their customers. Newly updated website taxonomy for fire-rated systems makes it possible to filter to the correct product based on as-



sembly requirements.

ClarkDietrich also wants to make it easier to ask questions and research fire-rated systems, which is why they created a dedicated Fire-Rated System Technical Support page. All a customer has to do is fill out a quick, comprehensive web form and a technical service representative will contact them to help make the best product selections for their fire-rated

CLARK DIETRICH
clarkdietrich.com

Milwaukee® Advances Rotary Hammer Solutions with the Second Generation M18 FUEL™ 1-1/8" SDS Plus Rotary Hammer w/ ONE-KEY™

Milwaukee Tool continues to innovate the cordless SDS Plus rotary hammer market with the second generation of their M18 FUEL™ 1-1/8" SDS Plus Rotary Hammer w/ ONE-KEY™, delivering advanced performance and productivity on the jobsite. The new generation M18 FUEL™ 1-1/8" SDS Plus Rotary Hammer w/ ONE-KEY™ is the fastest drilling and hardest hitting hammer in its class with over 20% faster drilling. Alongside this new rotary hammer, Milwaukee® also introduces a next-generation M18 FUEL™ HAMMERVAC™ 1-1/8" Dedicated Dust Extractor.

"As the market continues to be dominated by corded rotary hammers, Milwaukee® is dedicated to the advancement of developing solutions of not only the technology behind the tools, but the safety of our users as well", said Brittany Sellnow, Product Manager for Milwaukee Tool. "We continue to blaze a trail for innovative solutions with the second generation of M18 FUEL™ 1-1/8" SDS Plus Rotary Hammer w/ ONE-KEY™ - the fastest and hardest hitting in its class."

True to all M18 FUEL™ solutions, the new M18 FUEL™ 1-1/8" SDS Plus Rotary Hammer w/ ONE-KEY™ combines three exclusive innovations – the POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor, REDLITHIUM™ Battery Pack, and REDLINK PLUS™ Intelligence.

The POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor delivers 3.6 ft.-lbs. of impact energy, 800 RPM, and 4,600 BPM to provide speed and power in the most demanding jobsite applications. When paired with a M18™ REDLITHIUM™ HIGH OUTPUT™ XC6.0 Battery Pack, the hammer can drill with up to (50) 5/8" x 3" holes

Product News

per charge. REDLINK PLUS™ Intelligence ensures maximum rotary hammer performance and protects from overload, overheating, and over discharge.

To enhance safety, this second-generation hammer delivers maximum control with AUTOSTOP™ Kickback Control to prevent over-rotation in case the tool binds up when drilling into rebar or hard aggregate. Additionally, an AVS™ Anti-Vibration System minimizes vibration for maximum comfort. The improved next generation M18 FUEL™ HAMMervac™ Dedicated Dust Extractor features an AUTOPULSE™ filter cleaning system and is the only onboard dedicated dust extractor solution with an automatic filter cleaner to deliver OSHA® Table 1 Compliance*** for drilling capacity up to 1-1/8" in diameter and 8" in depth. The new M18 FUEL™ HAMMervac™ 1-1/8 Dedicated Dust Extractor maintains the drilling speed and runtime of the rotary hammer all while keeping exposure to dust extraction below the 25ug/m3 action level. A switchable depth stop and translucent dust box provide clear visibility to read the dust level. This is the only dedicated dust extractor on the market with an integrated solution that allows users to empty the dust box by attaching a vacuum for dust removal instead of dumping it out, limiting users' overall exposure to silica.

MILWAUKEE TOOLS

milwaukeeetools.com

New Werner Glidesafe™ Extension Ladder Takes Ease-of-Use To The Next Level

Werner announces a new easy-operating extension ladder with a breakthrough innovation: a patent-pending lift assist technology that helps the end user comfortably raise and lower the ladder's fly section. The Werner GLIDESAFE™ Extension

Ladder is the only ladder on the market with Werner's patent-pending technology which provides up to 50% assistance to raise* the ladder in addition to speed-controlled lowering.

"This first-to-world innovation helps prevent fatigue on the jobsite," said Carla Ramalho, Werner's senior product manager over climbing products. "During field visits, our team recognized that extending fiberglass ladders all day, and being able to control the tall and heavy ladders took a toll on ladder users. We quickly went to the drawing board to find ways to solve these pain points. Today, our team is excited to announce we've created an extension ladder that not only addresses these concerns but improves the comfort of our end users!"

Designed for all professionals who use fiberglass extension ladders, from commercial construction to facilities maintenance, GLIDESAFE takes ease-of-use to the next level.

Breakthrough Innovation

Werner's patent-pending Lift-Assist Technology makes the GLIDESAFE the only extension ladder of its kind. The internal spring mechanism operates similar to a garage door system providing assistance to raise it when you need it most.

As the user pulls the internal lift cable, the spring releases tension and helps lift the extension ladder's fly section with less effort required. When the fly section is lowered, it reloads tension on the spring, providing resistance that keeps the ladder's fly section from slamming to the ground.

The lift assist mechanism is connected through an ultra-high-molecular-weight poly-ethylene rope, the same material used for lines on sport parachutes and in the marine industry. The new components match Werner's industry-leading standards for strength and durability.

The result of the Lift-Assist Technology is a pro-grade fiberglass extension ladder that slides up and down smoothly and with less effort, removing

Product News

common pain points caused by free-moving fly sections.

Focus on Safety

Werner takes a strict adherence to leading safety standards, and the GLIDESAFE ex-tension ladder is no exception. Multiple features help keep the ladder locked in place when it is not in use.

A built-in auto-lock automatically engages when the extension ladder is fully col-lapsed. A yellow tab must be pressed to unlock the ladder and allow it to extend. Addi-tional heavy-duty locks keep the GLIDESAFE secure and stable when it is extended during use.

The new GLIDESAFE extension ladder also comes with built-in transportation latches which can be buckled around the rungs of both ladder sections.

The latches help en-sure safe transportation of the ladder, keeping it from extending while on the go.

WERNER CO.

wernerladder.com



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US Department Of Labor Seeking Nominations For Newly Reestablished Federal Advisory Council On Occupational Safety And Health

Advises Secretary on workplace safety for federal workers

The U.S. Department of Labor is seeking nominations for membership for the newly reestablished Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health, which advises the Secretary of Labor on all matters relating to the occupational safety and health of federal employees.

Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh reauthorized the council's two-year charter on Oct. 1, 2021, to begin the process of reestablishing the 16-member council. Specifically, its members advise the Secretary on how to reduce the number of injuries and illnesses in the federal workforce, and how to encourage each federal Executive Branch department and agency to establish and maintain effective occupational safety and health programs.

The department is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and seeks broad-based and diverse council members. By charter, eight members will represent management in federal departments and agencies, and eight members will represent federal employees. The Secretary appoints members for staggered terms of up to three years and may appoint some members to successive terms. The council meets at least twice a year.

[Read the Federal Register notice for submission instructions. Submit nominations electronically, and refer to Docket No. OSHA-2021-0010 at \[www.regulations.gov\]\(http://www.regulations.gov\), the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Submit nominations by Nov. 1, 2021. OSHA anticipates filling all vacancies by December 2021.](#)

COVID-19 Whistleblowing: New fact sheet from OSHA

CORONAVIRUS OSHA
WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS
WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

A new fact sheet from OSHA details protections for employees who report workplace health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, and includes other relevant information for whistleblowers.

Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 contains anti-retaliation provisions for all employers except most federal, state and local government workers. U.S. Postal Service employees, however, are covered.

Activities related to COVID-19 that are protected

include reporting an infection/exposure or unsafe condition to an employer or OSHA. The fact sheet provides examples of retaliation, including being fired or laid off.

OSHA notes that, under the OSH Act, the deadline for filing a retaliation complaint is 30 days after an employee “learns of the adverse action.” It also details what happens after a complaint is filed, what to do about a “dangerous situation” at work and what happens after a Section 11(c) investigation.

If an OSHA regional administrator dismisses the complaint, the employee may seek a review of the dismissal by the Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs by filing a request within 15 calendar days of receiving the dismissal letter. •

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