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OSHA News Release

2005 - 06/02/2005 - OSHA and Hampden Contractors Join to Enhance Safety and Health for Construction Workers in Western Massachusetts

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OSHA Regional News Release

**U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs**

Region 1

Region 1 News Release: 05-971-BOS/BOS 2005-135

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OSHA and Hampden Contractors Join to Enhance Safety and Health for Construction Workers in Western Massachusetts

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. -- Enhancing safety and health for construction workers in western Massachusetts is the goal of a newly-signed alliance between the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Hampden Contractors.

Under the alliance, OSHA and Hampden Contractors will develop and deliver training and education programs for Hampden Contractors' members and their employees. Hampden Contractors is an association of construction and construction-related contractors from western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

Training will include monthly meetings that will focus on reducing and preventing construction hazards, including falls, electrical, struck-by and caught in or between hazards. Alliance members will share best practices for construction safety and will work together on specific issues and projects. Members will also be encouraged to participate in OSHA's cooperative programs, including the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP), safety consultation and the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

"This alliance seeks to reduce hazards and improve safety and health for construction workers throughout the region," said Ronald E. Morin, OSHA's area director in Springfield. "We hope to increase workers' ability to spot and address hazards before they cause an accident."

Morin signed the alliance for OSHA. Signing for Hampden Contractors were members Mark Frechette, Frank E. Payer and Steven W. Lytwyn. Additional information about the alliance can be obtained from OSHA's Springfield area office at (413) 785-0123.

OSHA health and safety alliances are part of U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao's ongoing efforts to improve the health and safety of workers through cooperative partnerships. OSHA has created more than 325 alliances with organizations committed to fostering safety and health in the workplace.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards;

providing training, outreach and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

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