A10 Clarification

As a member of the ANSI A10 Committee for Construction and Demolitions and chair of the A10.34 Subgroup for the Protection of the Public on or Adjacent to Construction and Demolition Sites, I was pleased to see the July 2004 Standards Developments column about the A10.34-2001 standard (pg. 20). However, several points need clarification. The column states that the standard addresses project consultants. The standard actually addresses definitions and duties for “project constructors,” not project consultants. This is an important difference, and ties in with controlling entities (per OSHA) and definitions in the A10.33 and A10.38 standards.

In addition, while the column notes the importance of having an emergency action plan, the standard itself does not address some of the specific topics listed in the column. For example, the standard does not serve to address on-site emergency personnel and their responsibilities for evacuation during an emergency. It does, however, require a controlling contractor to anticipate the effect construction may have on evacuations from public places and does require that they interface with responding public agencies to plan for this.

Locations of hazardous materials is a topic that should be covered in a preplan, but, again, the standard does not dictate what on-site personnel must do for their own protection.

In addition, A10.34-2001 does not address exposures to construction personnel on site. It pertains to exposures to members of the public, which is defined. However, it should be noted that other A10 standards do address exposures for personnel on construction and demolition sites. As chair of this subgroup, I would note that this is a significant standard and should have a positive impact on safety and health. It is a good step forward the profession.

Barry A. Cole
Chair, ASSE/ANSI A10.34 Subgroup

Let’s Focus on the Donut

In “Latino Workers in the Construction Industry” (June 2004, pp. 24-28), the authors indicate that Latino language, literacy and culture must be understood to overcome injury and death. The premise is that when employers understand workers and workers understand English, injury and death will be prevented. In my opinion, teaching employers about Hispanic culture and teaching

Barry A. Cole
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