



Wyoming Chapter

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Wyoming's Merit Shop News

Blueprints

State & Federal Wage Surveys

Demand Your Attention

Surveys Will Determine Wages Paid for Future Federal and State Construction Projects

If you have not already received them, you will soon. The Federal Davis-Bacon wage surveys for building and heavy construction were sent to contractors working in Wyoming and Montana last week. State Prevailing Wage surveys will be sent soon.

While ABC does not support federally or state mandated wage rates, they are a fact of life when working on state and federally funded projects, and it is absolutely essential that ALL ABC of Wyoming members complete BOTH surveys for the good of the industry.

It has been at least 15 years since federal Davis-Bacon surveys were conducted in Wyoming. Some of the wage rates were only determined by labor union respondents at that time. And while unions are afforded the right to update their wage rates throughout the years if they are found to have prevailing wages, open shop contractors are not afforded the same rights.

Instead, open shop contractors must answer and return a majority of the federal surveys in order for open shop contractors to set the prevailing wages, and better ensure those wages are set for years to come.

While you may not plan to work on a federally funded project anytime in the near future please

note that it may be 15 or more years before these surveys are conducted again, you might be interested in a federally funded project within the next 10 to 15 years, the wages for these projects will be set by this year's survey. Also, with the trillions of federal dollars being dispensed through current and possibly future stimulus packages; you may across a lot more federally funded projects in the years to come, small and large scale, residential and commercial.

State Prevailing Wage surveys will be sent at the same time as the federal surveys. Wyoming's Prevailing Wage surveys MUST be completed by all resident contractors in order for them to qualify for the 5% Resident Preference.

The state survey is used to determine wages on state construction projects, although most school projects are exempt from state Prevailing Wage as well as Davis-Bacon wages.

Again, it is vital that our members complete both surveys. It may be a long time before Davis-Bacon surveys are conducted in our area, and this will be the ONLY opportunity we have for input. And while the state Prevailing Wage surveys are conducted annually, resident contractors must complete it to be eligible to receive resident preference on any state project.

ABC WYOMING SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

ABC of Wyoming is pleased to announce that we are awarding two \$1,000 scholarships for 2009.

Our first recipient is Brandon Dimmick of Gillette. Brandon works for ABC member company Scott Brothers Electric and will be continuing his electrical education, eventually planning to obtain his master's license and possibly become an electrical engineer. Brandon is enrolled in classes through Sheridan College at the Gillette Campus.

Our second winner is Grant Lund of Buffalo, Grant is aiming to get back into the construction industry with hopes of becoming a construction manager and one day owning his own business. Grant is enrolled at classes in Sheridan College.

Special thanks to all of our Scholarship donors, including A-1 Electric, Groathouse Construction, GW Mechanical, Haselden Wyoming Constructors, as well as all who contributed to our fundraising activities throughout the year.



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TELL YOUR EMPLOYEES TO BUCKLE-UP AND SLOW-DOWN

Did you know 45% of all Wyoming workplace fatalities happen as a result of transportation?

As we continue to work with the Governor's Safety Taskforce and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), it is becoming increasingly clear that we may be able to dramatically reduce Wyoming workplace fatalities by adopting safer travel requirements for our employees.

NIOSH is looking much deeper than the standard Department of Labor and Worker's Compensation statistics; they are studying incidents and searching for patterns and solutions. While it is much too soon to act on the data acquired so far, patterns are developing, and they are pointing to making our roadways safer.

We are not talking about employees driving to and from work, or having

accidents while travelling on vacation – we are talking about employees driving as part of their job, between jobsites, hauling equipment, etc.

While no employer can sit in the passenger seat and ensure their employees are wearing seatbelts and driving the speed limit all the time, we can implement and enforce seat-belt and safe speed policies. Explain your safe driving policies to your employees and keep a copy of the policy in each company vehicle.

Examples of safe driving policies can be easily found by searching the Web. If there is enough interest, ABC of Wyoming would be able to hold safe driving classes for our member companies and their employees. If you are interested in such a course for your employees, please let us know.

BILL MAY OPEN LAWSUIT FLOODGATES

A bill currently being debated by the Joint Judiciary Committee may open the frivolous lawsuit floodgates against business, property, and homeowners in Wyoming.

The "Duty to Independent Contractors" bill is aimed at codifying case law and improving oil patch safety.

Unfortunately, some believe the vagueness of the bill will leave interpretation of legislative intent wide open, possibly leading to any injured employee to sue General Contractors, property and possibly even homeowners who contract any work

to be done to property they own or otherwise have control over.

ABC of Wyoming opposes this legislation, just as we opposed similar legislation introduced last session.

A current version of the bill can be viewed at:

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/interimCommittee/2009/10/iso-0069w1.pdf>

For more information, contact Josh Carnahan, ABC of Wyoming President.

EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST 2009

24th – 25th SFC Meeting Casper

26th ABC of WY Board Meeting, Conf Call

27th-28th Joint Corporations Cmtee, Saratoga

31st – **WAB INSURANCE RENEWAL ENDS**

SEPTEMBER 2009

9th Joint Labor Committee, Sheridan

16th –17th School Facilities Subcommittee, Cspr

16th ABC FEATURED WEBINAR
**SAFETY ESSENTIALS
ON THE JOB SITE**

For more info visit: www.abc.org

21st – 22nd SFC Meeting Casper

24th ABC Membership Committee, Gillette

24th ABC of WY Board Meeting, Gillette

24th ABC Contractor Appreciation
Reception – Best Western Towers Lodge, Gillette

OCTOBER 2009

15th – ABC of WY BOD Meeting

15th - ABC Contractor Appreciation
Reception – Best Western Ramkota, Casper

20th – 21st ABC Professional Dev. &
Leadership Conference, Orlando, FL
For more info visit: www.abc.org

30th – ABC of Wyoming BIM Meeting – Best
Western Ramkota, Casper

NOVEMBER 2009

16th – 17th SFC Meeting Casper

19th ABC of WY Board Meeting

DECEMBER 2009

17th ABC of WY Board Meeting