

Jeremy Bethancourt, CHST
Augspurger Komm Engineering, Inc.
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EDUCATION

B.S. in Justice Administration, Minor Sociology, Arizona State University, 1997
A.A. in Pre-Law at Glendale Community College, 1994
A.S.C., National Safety Council, OS&H, 2010

BACKGROUND/EXPERIENCE

Mr. Bethancourt started his construction career as a taper's apprentice in Kahaluu, Hawaii in 1990. From there he worked his way through undergraduate school as a prep-cook and assistant manager of a downtown restaurant. In 1996, his senior year at ASU, he began working full time for LeBlanc Building Co., Inc. (LBC) as a laborer/carpenter apprentice. During that time, he also had a 20-30 hour per week apprenticeship at the Glendale Police Department working in the city jail. As a volunteer (apprentice) detention officer of the Glendale Police Department Mr. Bethancourt was expected to perform with the same professionalism and decorum as paid staff/ officers. As part of his experience at Glendale PD, Mr. Bethancourt rode along on dozens of police patrols and developed friendships with several police officers. Upon completion of his internship, Mr. Bethancourt received a letter of appreciation from Glendale Police Chief David Dobrotka.

Mr. Bethancourt graduated from ASU in 1996-97 with an undergraduate degree in Justice Administration minoring in Sociology. He continued his career path toward law enforcement while working at LeBlanc as a carpenter apprentice through journeyman level until he was promoted to lead carpenter on a crew. In 2002 he earned promotion to foreman and was tasked as the lead foreman for several communities. In 2006 Mr. Bethancourt was promoted to Safety Director of LBC in large part to his law enforcement educational background and consistency with ensuring safety for workers within his sphere of influence.

Mr. Bethancourt has over 30 years' experience in workplace safety and regulatory compliance. He is the current Director of Safety for LeBlanc Building Company, Inc. In 2012, due to the proficiency he demonstrated for workplace safety, public engagement, innovation, and voluntary participation from 2008-2012 with the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety & Health/ OSHA, Mr. Bethancourt was provided an official two-year appointment to that federal advisory committee by the U.S. Secretary of Labor. He was appointed for an additional term in 2014. During his time on the committee, Mr. Bethancourt advised the Secretary and OSHA regarding workplace best practices and small employer perspectives regarding regulations among other issues. He also participated in several NIOSH studies and research projects aimed at understanding workplace safety culture. In 2016 he completed his second two-year term as one of the two appointed Public Representative Members to the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety & Health for the Occupational Safety & Health Administration.

Mr. Bethancourt's first-hand experience in fall protection and other aspects of worksite safety provides him with the unique ability to apply both regulatory requirements and real-world solutions to the examination of incidents/accidents.

BACKGROUND/EXPERIENCE – Con't

In 2009-2011 after completing no less than 120 hours of formal training and education from the National Safety Council, Mr. Bethancourt earned an Advanced Safety Certificate. In 2011, due to his experience and understanding of the curriculum, Mr. Bethancourt was invited to become an instructor for the Arizona Chapter National Safety Council which he did until 2017.

The following is a partial listing of courses facilitated by Mr. Bethancourt in his role as a National Safety Council trainer/instructor.

- Principals of Occupational Safety & Health (NSC)
- Safety Training Methods (NSC)
- Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene (NSC)
- Safety Management Techniques (NSC)
- Forklift Train the Trainer (NSC)
- Flagger Train the Trainer (NSC)
- CPR/First Aid (NSC)
- Incident Investigation (NSC)
- Job Safety Assessment (NSC)
- Confined Space Train the Trainer (NSC)
- Safety Inspection (NSC)

He is a past member of the Public Relations Committee for the American Society of Safety Professionals, Professional Member of the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP)/ Arizona Chapter, board member of Kids' Chance of Arizona, Past Member of the Arizona Business Association Safety Committee, Member of the A-10.32 ANSI/ASSP Fall Protection Subcommittee, and Section Advisor for the Construction Section of the Arizona Chapter of the ASSP and is the Government Affairs Chairperson for the Arizona Chapter of the ASSP.

Mr. Bethancourt is also a regular guest lecturer for the University of Alabama Birmingham in their Masters of Safety Engineering program and peer reviewer for the Journal on Architectural Engineering. He has provided education lectures for the American Society of Safety Professionals, SCF Arizona, National Safety Council, American Society of Civil Engineers, Construction Safety Council, and Southeastern Mine Safety Conference among others.

For the last five years Mr. Bethancourt has volunteered to provide workplace safety outreach and training as part of the annual OSHA/NIOSH/CPWR National Fall Stand Down. He volunteers countless hours in the community working with Kids' Chance of Arizona, The Annual Distracted Driving Summit, American Cancer Society, Little League and Babe Ruth/ Cal Ripken Baseball League, and Cub Scouts.

EXPERIENCE HISTORY

- 2015 – Augspurger Komm Engineering, Inc.; Safety Engineering Consultant
- 1996 – Leblanc Building Co., Inc.; Director of Safety/Trainer; Regulatory Interface
- 2009 – ACTA Safety; Program Director/ Secretary Treasurer
- 2009 - Cortessa Community Association; Member of the Board of Directors
- 2010 – American Society of Safety Professionals; American National Standards Institute Subcommittee Member
- 2011 – 2017 National Safety Council; Arizona Chapter, Trainer/Consultant/OSH Advisor
- 2012 - Government Affairs Chairperson for AZAAP
- 2015 - Transportation and Roadway Pedestrian Safety (TARPS) Section Chairperson AZASSP
- 2012 –2016 ACCSH Member – Appointed by United States Secretary of Labor Solis in 2012 and reappointed by United State Secretary of Labor Perez in 2014 to serve as one of two Public Representative Members to the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety & Health for the Occupational Safety & Health Administration. Second term ended July 2016.
- 2009- Professional Member American Society of Safety Professionals.

AWARDS

- 2017 Edgar Monsanto Queeny Safety Professional of the Year
- 2015 Safety Professional of the Year, Construction Practice Specialties, ASSP
- 2013 Inaugural Triangle Award for Heroic Dedication presented by the American Society of Safety Engineers
- 2010 Kids Chance of Arizona Service Award
- 2009 Safety Professional of the Year Arizona Chapter of the ASSP
- 2008 Runner-up National Association of Home Builders SAFE Award as Safety Professional of the Year
- 2006 Five Year Service Award from Arizona Hemophilia Association

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2012-2016 Appointee to Advisory Committee on Construction Safety & Health/ OSHA
- Professional Member American Society of Safety Professionals
- Past Instructor Arizona Chapter National Safety Council
- Safety Ambassador National Safety Council
- Past member of Arizona Business Association Safety Committee
- 2008-2009 Vice Chairman Arizona ASSP Construction Section
- 2009-2010 Chairman Arizona ASSP Construction Section
- Advisory Board Member Arizona Kids' Chance
- 2008-2011 Voluntary Participant OSHA Advisory Committee on Construction Safety & Health

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS – Con't

1. Residential Fall Protection Work Group (In hiatus)
2. Women in Construction Work Group
3. Diversity in Construction Work Group
4. Prevention Through Design

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- *Anyone Can Be President, Safety Professionals Approach to Government Affairs*, University of Alabama (Meng) Advanced Safety Engineering & Management, Guest Lecturer, March, 2020
- Annual Arizona Distracted Driving Summit, Government Affairs An Easy Ste-by-Step Guide to Citizen involvement in the Political Process, Arizona ASSP Engagement with Citizens, January, 2020
- Fall Protection, Southeastern Mine Safety Conference, Birmingham, Alabama, November 2019
- Anyone Can Be President, Government Affairs Engagement, American Society of Safety Professionals, Safety 2019 Professional Development Conference, June 2019
- Human Factor, Information Technology and Safety Engineering in Construction, American Society of Civil Engineer's, Webinar, November 2018
- Fall Protection in Residential Construction, Still Talking About it!, American Society of Safety Professionals, Professional Development Conference, June, 2018
- Rulemaking Process in Local Government, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Al; Guest Lecturer, June 2018
- Presenter at the 2017 ASSP Leadership Conference Planning Committee, October 12-14, 2017, Rosemont, IL
- *OSHA, Don't Tell Me What To Do*, American Society of Safety Engineers Professional Development, Conference, June 21, 2017
- *Fall Protection – Overcoming Misconceptions in Residential Construction*, Journal of the American Society of Safety Engineers, March 2017
- *Making the Fall Protection System Fit the Workplace*, Whitepaper & Lecture, Safety 2016, Professional Development Conference & Exposition for the American Society of Safety Engineers, Co-author/presenter, 2016.
- *Structural Efficacy of Residential Structures for Fall Protection Systems*, Journal of the American Society of Safety Engineers, May 2015
- *The Cost-effectiveness of Fall Arrest Systems in Construction: The Employers Perspective*, National Occupational Injury Research Symposium: Status Report & Preliminary Findings, Co-Author October 2011.
- *OSHA Rescinds Residential Fall Protection Exemption: What the New Directive Means for the Residential & Commercial Building Industry*, Professional Safety, Journal of the American Society of Safety Engineers June 2011
- *Safe Best Practices for Linemen*, UOSH Safety Line, April 2011
- *Guidance Document for Residential Construction*, OSHA Co-Contributor/Consultant, U.S. Department of Labor/ Occupational Safety & Health Administration, 2011.
- *Health Hazards in Construction*, Co-Contributor, Construction Safety Council® Copyright 2011.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS – Con't

- *The Journey from Alternative to Conventional: A Moral Choice LeBlanc Building Co., Inc.* LBC, 2008
- *Conventional Fall Protection: Is It Still Infeasible or a Greater Hazard To Use Conventional Fall Protection In Residential Construction?* Technical Report LBC, 2007
- Tool Box Safety Talks, LeBlanc Building Co., Inc., English & Spanish LBC, 2007
- *Framer Fall Protection FFP™/ Slide Guard/ CAZ* LBC, 2006
- *Framer Orientation & General Safety Instruction*, LeBlanc Building Co., Inc. English & Spanish 2006 & 2008
- Numerous Presentations made to the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety & Health ACCSH 2008-2011.

RESEARCH SUPPORT & COLLABORATIONS

2014 to Present: Mr. Bethancourt is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Architectural Engineering.

2013-2014: Mr. Bethancourt co-authored a report funded by CPWR through a NIOSH/CDC grant with the end goal of providing employer contractors information on how they might improve worker safety by using fall protection systems in wood frame construction. The document titled: *Structural Efficacy of Residential Structures for Fall Protection Systems* provides an overview of thirteen averted or arrested falls of workers over a seven year period. The report is part one of a multi-phase project proposal aimed at improving the safety of workers at height.

2010 -2013: Mr. Bethancourt assisted NIOSH researches as they prepared materials which are provided to industry to assist workers and employers in reduce pneumatic nail gun injuries. The document titled: *Straight Talk About Nail-Gun Safety* is the culmination of over three years of research and collaboration with industry into best practices for nail-gun safety. It is anticipated that the animated approach of the document will enable even low literacy workers the ability to understand best practices and actions that can be taken to mitigate the hazards association with using pneumatic nail-guns.

2010-Present: Mr. Bethancourt in conjunction with several partners has been evaluating and testing wood frame structures for suitability for fall protection anchor points to be incorporated into structures during initial construction. The evaluations have been conducted at several sites and on numerous truss configurations. The protocols used for the evaluation of structures were taken from CFR 1926 Appendix C to Subpart M and ANSI A10.32. The research is on a continuing basis in an effort to accumulate documentation to the applicability, practicality, and feasibility of fall protection in wood frame construction. Since 2007 there have been eight separate evaluations.

2009-2012: Mr. Bethancourt was chosen to act as an industry liaison as well as a worker/employer safety advocate as NIOSH investigated ways to reduce the large amount of occupational injuries as a result of pneumatic nail guns. Despite evidence that traumatic nail gun injuries are a relatively frequent occurrence which can result in serious injury or death, current ‘best practices’ for reducing these injuries have not been widely adopted. As part of industry outreach, NIOSH facilitated focus groups to conducted and explore the attitudes and beliefs of residential building stakeholders regarding barriers to adopting use of safer

RESEARCH SUPPORT & COLLABORATIONS – Con't

pneumatic nail guns and work practices, and to identify communication (i.e., social marketing) content and methods appropriate for stakeholders. The goal of the NIOSH project titled “*Adoption and Diffusion of Safety Improved Nail-Guns*” is the increase in the use of the improved pneumatic nail guns and work practices that will reduce the risk of traumatic injury during wood frame construction.

2004-2011: Mr. Bethancourt in collaboration with several NIOSH researchers completed a preliminary report for the October 2011 National Occupational Injury Research Symposium. That report titled: *The Cost-effectiveness of Fall Arrest Systems in Construction: The Employers Perspective* provided specific injury and labor burden data of a small to medium size employer over a 7 year period. The evidence demonstrated the reduction in workers compensation premiums as a result of a reduction in fall related incidents. The evaluation of the company’s work practices prior to the intervention is very important given the fact that many in the industry even now advocate and promote comparable work practices and has consistently demonstrated similar fall incident rates over the last 20 years. The current research is the evaluation of four additional years of data including cost for maintenance and replacement of equipment, decrease in workers compensation premiums, and an additional six workers successfully saved after they fell. The current manuscript is undergoing peer review for publication and is titled, “*We Can Do It: A Methodology to Incorporate Fall Protection Safety into the Building Process.*” The current work is part two of a multi-phased effort focused on reducing injuries through work practice modification, prevention through design, preplanning, and continual worker training and evaluation. The data collected will be easily used to compare the fall incidents of construction companies to demonstrate similar reductions of those incidents would in fact be financially beneficial for the industry.

2009-2010: Mr. Bethancourt was a key advisor and technical consultant/advocate representing workers and end users to the NIOSH pilot research project titled “*Fall Arrest Systems in Residential Roof Construction*”. The purpose of the project was to design, analyze, and pilot test a method of evaluating the feasibility of using wood frame roof structures/trusses as an anchorage point for Personal Fall Arrest Systems in wood frame construction during light commercial/ residential activities. As part of the work, a methodology was to be created to evaluate under what conditions a wood framed structure could be used as an acceptable anchorage location as part of a PFAS designed to protect workers should they fall while working at height. At the beginning of 2010 the pilot study had not reached all its desired goals and as a result all “partners were asked to extend their cooperation with NIOSH under the original Letter of Agreement.

2007: Mr. Bethancourt was the project manager for a residential construction field study conducted in Arizona titled, “*Conventional Fall Protection Anchor Feasibility Demonstration/Test*”. The purpose of that study was to determine, from a wood frame perspective, if it was still infeasible or a greater hazard to provide fall protection systems as defined by the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration. The results from that field study and subsequent engineering evaluation was fundamental in establishing the basis for a similar test conducted by Weyerhaeuser Research & Development in April 2008 and an industry wide mobilization toward the rescinding of the Residential Interim Fall Protection Guidelines. The study also evaluated the response of open floor and roof framing to forces caused by a falling object under simulated conditions that are typical in residential construction when a worker falls. The protocols for the

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Consultant
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evaluation were deemed compliant with Appendix C to 1926 Subpart M. The evaluation was observed by ADOSH Consultation and industry representatives. The report was widely distributed and submitted to the Federal Registrar for access by the general public.

BOARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Trainer for the Arizona Chapter National Safety Council,
Government Affairs Chairperson Arizona Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSP)
Board Member of Kids' Chance of Arizona
Committee Member of the Arizona Business Association Safety Committee
Member of the A-10.32 ANSI/ASSP Fall Protection Subcommittee,
Section Advisor for the Construction Section of the Arizona Chapter of the ASSP

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