

Make time for safety

The commitment your company makes can make all the difference when it comes to the success of your business

Odds are anyone holding a copy of *Metal Roofing Magazine* is aware of at least most of the potential dangers of installing a metal roof, or any roofing for that matter. It's the nature of the beast — anytime you're off the ground, there's a danger of falling to the ground and suffering an injury ... or worse.

Fortunately for you, your employees and co-workers, there is a wide variety of quality and proven safety equipment available. You owe it to your employees and your customers to know as much as you can about safety and safety equipment.

You may not always view its existence as a positive, but the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is not just a governmental body of law enforcement and penalties. OSHA provides guidelines, regulations and training for crew leaders and crew members.

(While OSHA rules and regulations apply nationwide, be mindful that local regulations may vary between locations. It's important to know what the expect-

tations are in the area you're working.)

Working safely may add to the time it takes to complete a job, but the value of time saved cannot match the value of healthy workers. No more lecturing — we talked to a few reps from several metal roofing firms about their safety programs. No one's perfect, but it's a pretty good goal. Hopefully, there's an idea or two you can implement into your operation.

Kodiak Roofing, Lincoln, Calif.

"Our safety program is always evolving," says Rich Palmer, vice president of operations. "It's been evolving for over 20 years. Our safety director meets with our foremen at least once a month and at jobsites, we have weekly tailgate meetings."

Some meetings are to teach installers how to use new safety equipment or to answer questions about a particular project. Every jobsite has different challenges.

Kodiak employs approximately 200



Kodiak Roofing photo

installers at any given time, so the company takes on some large projects and works with general contractors who also place an emphasis on safety. Kodiak installed the metal roofing on the Sacramento International Airport in Sacramento, Calif., working with Turner Construction of Tempe, Ariz. More than 350,000 square feet of stainless steel roofing panels from Contrarian Metal Resources were installed — on a working terminal.

"Turner Construction knows we're dedicated to safe working conditions, they know about our safety program and our IIPP (Injury Illness Prevention Plan)," Palmer says. "They're as dedicated to safety as we are. Contractors

expect that.”

Palmer says Kodiak has a “zero-tolerance tie-off” policy. “If you’re caught not tied off, it’s immediate termination,” he says. “And that’s not always easy to do, but they learn real quick we’re not screwing around with it. There have been occasions we’ve had to terminate a valuable employee, guys that have been with us a long time.

Palmer says Kodiak invests tens of thousands of dollars annually on safety equipment and training. Foremen are required to take the 30-hour OSHA class and all employees are taking the 10-hour OSHA course.

“They get it,” Palmer says of the Kodiak employees. “They understand why the zero-tolerance tie-off policy is in place. It’s for their safety and the company’s safety. Our employees are our most valuable asset and that’s not just lip service.”

**J.V. Heidler Co. Inc.,
Lancaster, Pa.**

Joe Heidler, president and CEO of J.V. Heidler Co. does his best to keep up on

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