

Patio Enclosures Inc. of Macedonia, OH Celebrates Two Years Without Injury



Patio Enclosures Inc. safety manager Todd Piros accepts awards from Ken Gould.

Patio Enclosures Inc. in Macedonia, Ohio, was honored May 6, 2008, at an informal employee meeting and cookout celebrating the company's second consecutive year without a recorded injury in its sunroom manufacturing operations.

During remarks at the company's event, Ken Gould, president of the Summit County Safety Council presented employees with four awards:

- **Group Award** - Lowest incident rate of companies that provide the same or similar services;
- **100 Percent Award** - No lost time injuries during the reporting period from January 1-December 31, 2007;
- **Achievement Award** - Improving lost time incidents by 25 percent over the previous reporting period of January 1-December 31, 2007; and
- **Special Award** - Achieving more than 500,000 hours worked spanning six months or longer without a lost time injury.

"Patio Enclosures, Inc. employee-owners have the right to take pride in what's been accomplished over the past two years in our sunroom manufacturing plant," says Ken Sekley, Patio Enclosures president and chief executive officer. "More importantly, however, is that we have gained a better understanding of how to keep ourselves and our fellow employee-owners safe."

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NYC Strengthens Safety Harness Requirements

To ensure contractors protect their workers with reliable safety-harness systems to prevent falls, the New York City Buildings Department is now mandating new safety protocols for concrete-embedded fall arresting systems.

The new regulation follows the death in April of a 25-year-old window installer. According to an article in the *New York Times*, Kevin Kelly was installing windows on the 23rd floor of a condominium tower on East 67th Street when a nylon safety strap that was intended to secure him to the building pulled loose from its mooring.

Contractors must now obtain detailed shop drawings, approved by a licensed engineer, for all concrete-embedded fall arresting systems prior to installation. The site's construction superintendent will inspect each piece of the system prior to and during installation. Contractors also must regularly inspect fall arresting systems for damage and keep a maintenance log onsite at all times.

New York Glass Contractor Fined for Unsafe Working Conditions

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited eleven contractors for failing to protect their employees against fall hazards during work on the Walden Galleria Mall construction project in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The employers face combined penalties totaling \$135,700.

Among the subcontractors fined was CBO Glass of Buffalo, N.Y. The company was fined \$16,000 for seven citations for failure to provide fall protection; no scaffold guardrail; no jobsite inspections; failure to provide access to a scaffold; an employee tied off to the basket of a boom truck while standing on a roof; inappropriate ladder use; and lack of appropriate traffic controls.

"This situation is unacceptable," says Arthur Dube, OSHA's area director in Buffalo. "Falls are the number one killer in construction work. It takes only one misstep, be it from a roof, scaffold, ladder or into a hole, to cause death or disabling injury."

► www.osha.gov ■