

KYTC Newsletter

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Volume 66



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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Gov. Beshear Cuts Ribbon on New, Transformational Russell Bridge

Today, Gov. Andy Beshear ceremonially cut the ribbon on a new bridge into downtown Russell, which opens this month. The transformational project provides a signature gateway to the community, in addition to making much-needed improvements in traffic flow and safety for Kentuckians who travel through the corridor.

The \$24 million structure replaces a 1930s-era viaduct and complements an adjacent Ohio River bridge linking Russell and Ironton, Ohio.

"This project, together with the recently constructed Ironton-Russell bridge, will provide a gateway for generations of travelers and thousands upon thousands of drivers and tons of cargo that flow through this region," said Gov. Beshear. "To build a better Kentucky, we need modern transportation infrastructure, and this new road and bridge project is a prime example that will keep our people safer."

The new bridge, a state-of-the-art "flyover" design, will greatly ease congestion at the Kentucky approach to the Ohio River bridge and the intersection of heavily traveled U.S. 23 and Kentucky Route 244, the main road into and out of downtown Russell.

The project, which began in April 2020, effectively relocates KY 244. Instead of branching off U.S. 23 at the intersection, the KY 244 turn has been moved northward and will be carried by the new bridge in a loop over U.S. 23 and adjacent railroad tracks. It will join with Bellefonte Street in downtown Russell at the same place the old bridge was connected.

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4 Ways to Build a Culture of Safety

How to prioritize staffing with onboarding & training at the forefront

Nearly 80% of construction jobs eliminated during the pandemic have returned, and employers are scrambling to fill open positions. But in terms of safety, expediting the hiring process may do more harm than good.

With the supply of construction workers failing to meet demand, there are concerns that contractors will rush the onboarding and training processes for new hires. Pushing workers into projects without a clear understanding of safety training and on-site hazards increases the already-high risk of serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs). Despite the urgency to fill the employment gap, safety needs to remain at the core of the hiring and onboarding process.

Experience & Training Are Critical

Approximately 20% of workplace fatalities in the United States occur in the construction industry, making it one of the most dangerous fields in the country. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identifies falls, electrocutions, caught-ins and struck-by hazards as the top four causes of jobsite injuries and fatalities.

However, most on-site fatalities — especially the 33% of all construction deaths caused by falls — are preventable with effective management and safety training. Although OSHA provides standards for training requirements, companies often circumvent or disregard standard protocols — particularly when they need to fill job openings quickly. Despite companies raising wages and offering additional benefits, finding skilled workers remains a core issue for many organizations. Hiring unskilled or inexperienced workers for these positions poses an even greater risk for SIFs.

Failing to provide sufficient training and a safe work environment can result in financial losses, legal implications and reputational damage.

4 Ways to Build a Culture of Safety

Providing new hires with adequate onboarding and training is paramount when a worker is hired, but it's just as important to ensure safe practices are maintained. There are four initiatives you can take to embody safety in the workplace culture while retaining top talent.

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About The KYTC

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on KYTC contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



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