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ACIG

news

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Breaking the Silence: Suicide in Construction

The Center of Disease Control (CDC) released its milestone report on occupation and suicide in July of 2016. (CDC Suicide Rate by Occupational Group) For the first time, researchers were able to rank industries by highest rates and largest number of deaths by suicide across 17 states. Construction was ranked number two for the highest rates of suicide and number one for the highest numbers. Demanding physical work, coupled with the stresses of seasonal employment and minimal access to mental health care, can create a workforce vulnerable to mental health challenges like depression, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts. The research shows that the suicide rates are highest among manual laborers working in isolated environments, because they feel greater pressure to perform, and/or feel the pain and stress of not have consistent employment opportunities.

Construction Industry Response

The Work Place Task Force for the Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention was created to break the stigma surrounding the topic of suicide in the workplace and ultimately preventing its occurrence. The group is made up of volunteer construction, mental health and risk management experts focused on creating awareness and developing prevention resources. They developed a Construction Industry Blueprint for Suicide Prevention ([link below](#)) to assist construction companies to recognize, acknowledge and ultimately prevent suicide in the workplace.

Nabholz Answers the Call to Action

Nabholz Construction's Wellness Director, Jayme Mayo, heard about the trend for suicide in construction and decided to take action. Nabholz has a strong and vibrant commitment to employee wellness. Jayme's team interacts daily with the Nabholz workforce and has become trusted advisors for the company.

The wellness team noticed that more employees were confiding in them about issues with stress, depression, anxiety and day to day challenges related to finances, family and sleep deprivation. All of these factors are leading indicators that can result in depression or ultimately a suicide attempt. Jayme explained, "The risk of mental health issues in the construction work force is one of our industry's greatest challenges that is vastly overlooked. The mental health and well-being of our workforce was at risk and it was time to take action."

Jayme and her team have spent the last year working on solutions to solve this problem. The following steps were taken:

- The Wellness team attended a Mental Health First Aid Class to identify warning signs and develop first response skill set.
- Developed a Health Survey Risk Assessment (HRA) – the survey identified all the resources that are available to employees and families. All employees participated in the assessment which also increased their knowledge of the available resources.

**ACIG
donated
\$3,500 to
CAISP to
support
Suicide
Prevention**

- Monthly Newsletter highlights services and provides continuous, timely communication with employees.
- Suicide Prevention Lunch and Learn meetings held at all locations.
- Identified a network of community based counselors where an employee who does not want to access the EAP can receive services immediately.
- Sponsored National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Suicide Prevention Symposium

Nabholz has already reaped the benefit of addressing mental health for their employees. For example, a few months ago a Superintendent finished up work and headed home only to find an empty house. His wife left and took everything – the furniture – the dog – his underwear. Jayme and her team took a personal interest in the Superintendent’s wellbeing. He attributes his ability to successfully move on and deal with the stress of the situation directly to the support and compassion of the Nabholz Wellness team.

ACIG Support

ACIG supports the effort to reduce suicide in the construction industry in several ways. Recently ACIG contributed \$3,500 to the CFMA Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The contribution will fund the production of a customized video featuring one construction industry leader’s own experience of mental health and suicide prevention. The video will be used for education and awareness at regional suicide prevention summits.

International mental health and suicide prevention expert, Sally Spencer Thomas, was a keynote speaker at ACIG’s Safety/Claims Workshop in Portland, Oregon September 12 – 14, 2017.

ACIG encourages Members to break the silence by implementing and utilizing the many tools developed to prevent suicide in the construction workplace. The following tools and resources can assist members in starting their journey.

Visit:

Click [here](#) for Construction Industry Blue Print



ACIG Financial Report September 30, 2017

Balance Sheet Profile

ACIG reported total assets of \$492,055,000 as of September 30, 2017 versus assets of \$447,278,000 reported at December 31, 2016. ACIG's shareholders' equity was \$177,891,000, also an all-time high (versus \$165,733,000 at December 31, 2016). ACIG posted net unrealized gains on investments (net of tax) of \$28,602,000 at September 30, 2017, an increase of \$9,985,000 from December 31, 2016, which accounted for a substantial portion of the capital growth.

Operating Results for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017

ACIG reported pretax income of \$49,390,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 before policyholder dividends and other return premiums of \$40,502,000 and related bonuses of \$7,091,000. ACIG accrued premium refunds of \$40,502,000 payable to the ACIG insureds pursuant to our capital management strategy versus budgeted transactions of \$31,018,000. ACIG reported net income of \$2,173,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 versus budgeted net income of \$2,681,000.

ACIG has exceeded its goal for capital growth in 2017, primarily as a result of excellent returns on ACIG's investments. ACIG will pay a special policyholder dividend to restrain capital growth.



ACIG's Investment Portfolio

Asset Allocation as of September 30, 2017

	Market Value	Percent of Total
Insurance Reserves Portfolio	\$ 270,135,840	57.4%
<i>Reserve Liabilities</i>	\$ 278,907,840	
BlackRock	\$ 219,267,045	
State Deposits	\$ 33,328,795	
Cash	\$ 17,540,000	
Capital Portfolio	\$ 200,410,717	42.6%
Equities		
Dodge & Cox (Global)	\$ 11,144,342	2.4%
Vanguard PRIMECAP	\$ 33,977,784	7.2%
Vanguard – International Growth	\$ 200,422	0.0%
Wellington Global Perspectives	\$ 11,401,344	2.4%
Angeles Global Equity Opportunities	\$ 24,206,805	5.1%
Absolute Return		
Angeles Absolute Return Fund	\$ 20,277,671	4.3%
Convertibles		
Zazove	\$ 27,501,143	5.8%
Allianz	\$ 1,051,039	0.2%
Fixed Income		
Western – Absolute Return	\$ 19,123,550	4.1%
T. Rowe Price High Yield Fund	\$ 7,422,763	1.6%
PIMCO – Income Fund	\$ 23,767,778	5.1%
Crescent High Income	\$ 12,369,862	2.6%
Real Assets		
Harvest MLP Income Fund	\$ 7,966,215	1.7%
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 470,546,557	100%
Shareholders' Equity (as of 09/30/17)	\$ 177,891,526	

*“\$470,546,557
in total investments”*



ACIG Contractors in the News

The Gary E. Bird Horizon Award was presented at the 37th IRMI Construction Risk Conference (CRC) to Shawn Connick and Ashley Hogue of **Charles Pankow Builders, Ltd.** The award recognizes a demonstrated commitment to improving construction risk management through the implementation of innovative, cost-effective and efficient risk management techniques.



The team developed the award-winning *The 8 Lethal Hazards* booklet to create better awareness and understanding of the 8 most dangerous hazards encountered in their operations that could cause serious injury or a fatality. The introduction of this booklet was coupled with training to ensure that the message was clear from the top of the organization to the bottom.

Jon Palil, Executive Vice President, Operations and Andrea Woods, Executive Vice President and Corporate Counsel, **Nabholz Construction Corporation**, are featured speakers at IRMI's 37th Construction Risk Conference, "What Contractors Need to Know About the New A201 Contract".



Engineering News Record (ENR) Northwest selected **Hoffman Corporation** as its Contractor of the Year.



Engineering New Record (ENR) Midwest featured the Chicago Cubs Wrigley Field Project, which is being built by **Pepper Construction Company**. The project schedule was impacted by the Cubs winning the 2016 World Series.



Hoar Construction, LLC's Baybrook Mall team received the 2017 Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Excellence in Construction Award. The award honors innovative and high-quality construction projects.



Saunders Construction, Inc. was digging the foundations for the Thornton Fire and Police Substation when they discovered a 66 million-year old fossil. Denver Museum of Nature and Science's dinosaur curator determined that it was a Triceratops.



Constructech Magazine honored 38 women that have worked to transform the construction industry. ACIG Members honored:

Carol Cadengo, SpawGlass
Hilary Thien, The Weitz Company, LLC
Pam Townsend, Danella Companies, Inc.




Dave Pancoast, Danella Corporate Safety Director, presented "Safety in Sight: The Impact of Video-Based Fleet Solutions" for *Construction Business Owner Magazine*.




ACIG News and Notables



IRMI Construction Risk Conference presenters:

Rob Berryman, ACIG Safety Consultant, “Active Shooter: Are You Prepared?”

Carl Heinlein, ACIG Senior Safety Consultant, “Fleet Risk Management Strategies.”

Mike O’Neill, ACIG President & CEO, met with Christian Mumenthaler, Swiss Re Group CEO in Zurich, CH to discuss strategic opportunities that compliment our relationship. Swiss Re is the 2nd largest reinsurer with over \$35 billion in annual premiums and \$34 billion in equity.

ACIG Thought Leadership

Our team of insurance, risk management, safety, quality and claims professionals have written four (4) Lessons Learned Bulletins and White Papers since July 25, 2017.

“*Texas Non-Subscriber White Paper*” written by Jack Florence, Risk Management Executive. Click [here](#)* to read his White Paper.

“*Catastrophic Slope Failure Good Catch*” written by Rob Berryman, Safety Consultant. Click [here](#)* to read his Lessons Learned Bulletin.

“*Design and Installation of Metal Wall Panels*” written by Larry Owen, Manager – Quality Division. Click [here](#)* to read his Lessons Learned Bulletin.

“*Seeking Resolutions to Claims*” written by Ron Arthur, Vice President – Claims Manager. Click [here](#)* to read his Lessons Learned Bulletin.

*Please use your ACIG provided login to access the link to ACIG’s SharePoint system. Your login is specific to your company and is shared by your staff companywide. ACIG has previously provided this information to your company’s gatekeeper. If you have any login questions, you may contact spSupport@ACIG.com.



ACIG Education and Networking Calendar

Event	Location	Dates
2018		
ACIG University	Dallas, TX	January 24-26
ACIG Best Practices	San Diego, CA	February 14-17
ACIG Annual Membership Meeting	San Diego, CA	February 14-17
Vail Contractors Forum	Vail, CO	March 15-17
In-House Legal Counsel Forum	Dallas, TX	April 16-17
Executive Committee Meeting	St. Helena, CA	April 25-28
Builders Quality Summit	Orlando, FL	June 13-15
Safety/Claims Workshop	Denver, CO	September 18-20
Risk Management Workshop	Laguna Beach, CA	October 25-27

Concluding Thoughts

I just returned from IRMI's 37th Annual Construction Risk Conference (CRC). Over 1,500 of the leading contractors, agents, brokers, insurers and other service providers attended this year's conference. ACIG has been a strong supporter of the CRC since its inception.

The Sunday mass shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas preceded this year's conference. ACIG's Rob Berryman's session, Active Shooter: Are You Prepared, attracted a full room of risk management professionals and prompted a special afternoon pop-up session.

I was immensely proud of Rob's handling of this important and timely topic. It demonstrated our focus on the safety and security of not only our construction brethren, but all Americans.



President & CEO

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