

2017 “STOP FALLS” STAND-DOWN EVENT CONDUCTED IN NEW YORK

Milicia Electric Corporation participated in the **2017 Safety Stand-Down** by holding a 20 worker stand-down at a New York Power Plant project. Safety Officer Robert Proimos led toolbox talks each of the five days of Stand-Down week. Two talks focused on fall prevention, two on ladder safety, and one on respirable silica awareness.

In one of the fall prevention talks, Proimos discussed fall arrest equipment, and how to inspect the equipment before each use. At the second talk on fall protection, a worker told his co-workers about his own previous experience of falling at a construction site. Fortunately, he survived the fall with only broken bones followed by a long recovery and difficulty returning to work at height.

His moving story of the hardships he and his family experienced made other workers feel comfortable telling the group about their experiences and safety concerns. This high level of interaction has sparked a major improvement in workers’ involvement in Milicia’s safety program.

Proimos is impressed with the ability of the fall prevention Stand-Down to encourage workers to appreciate other safety and health issues. His Friday presentation on the dangers of breathing crystalline silica, and the health consequences that can occur later in life, had a large impact on workers who had never heard of this common construction health issue. He talked to the workers about consistent, proper respirator use and has observed workers improved compliance with respirator requirements.

When asked if the Stand-Down will help improve his fall prevention program, Proimos simply said “Hell yes. This was our first year, and it was so successful that we plan to participate in the Stand-Down every year.”

