



A Florida Habitat for Humanity Combines *Women Build* & the Safety Stand-Down

Only a week or two before a planned [Women Build](#) event, Leslie Frazer of Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties, Inc. heard about the National Safety Stand-Down and learned that it would be taking place during the same week. Seizing the opportunity to use an event that already garners attention and volunteers, Leslie quickly pulled together a plan to add Stand-Down activities.

During the week, ladder safety was wrapped into Toolbox Talks and safety meetings on six different job sites. Approximately 20 staff and 100 volunteers participated in these talks, received hardhat stickers, and learned how to utilize the [NIOSH Ladder Safety App](#). In order to give the information long term relevance to volunteers who are not regularly working on construction sites, Habitat for Humanity (HFH) included lessons on safe ladder and step stool use at home as well.

While this is the first year HFH of Lee and Hendry Counties has participated in the Stand-Down, they do have a robust safety program focused on improving the overall safety culture for both staff and volunteers who come on site. Thirty to sixty minute trainings are held for all staff on a monthly or bimonthly basis and each week a morning meeting is held on a different safety topic. Falls is often included in these trainings and meetings since there are various types of ladders in use on all jobsites. In addition to safety training for staff, all volunteers must participate in Toolbox Talks before beginning work. Most recently, Leslie kept the HFH fall prevention program going post Stand-Down with a safety talk covering the risks associated with using old, bent or damaged ladders and “alternative devices” such as chairs, tables, and saw horses.



Above: Leslie Frazer, Construction Services Purchasing Asst., and Valerie Knight, Director of Communications, pose for a photo during the morning safety talk.

Below: CPWR's hardhat stickers were given out to staff and volunteers alike!



For additional Success Stories and information about how to participate in the National Safety Stand-Down, visit stopconstructionfalls.com