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2010.07.28

Local builder selected to participate in safety & sustainability study

Highlander Construction & Development, a construction company in the New River Valley, has been chosen to participate in a statewide study on environmental sustainability and safety issues of construction companies. Here is a press release from Highlander:

A local construction company, Highlander Construction & Development, Inc. (HCD), was one of 10 builders throughout Virginia asked to participate in a joint study conducted by the Center for Applied Behavior Systems at Virginia Tech and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The purpose of the project is to conduct research on the environmental sustainability and occupational health and safety activities of small construction businesses.

Researchers hope that the information they collect will help them understand how companies and individuals in the construction industry make choices in the work place, which affect their health and safety as well as their environmental impact. Results of the study will be used to help educate the construction industry and the general public about the potential alleviation of looming environmental threats and the benefits of choices and practices, which protect workers health and safety.

HCD was one of 10 firms throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia asked to participate in the study, in part, due to its excellent record of safety and the company's dedication to green building & sustainability practices. HCD was offered compensation for the company's participation in the study but has chosen to donate the money offered back to the University to support the project.

"We are honored to have been asked to participate in this survey," James Oliver, President of Highlander Construction & Development, said, "and we wholeheartedly endorse the purpose and expected benefits of the project."

The study is being conducted in two phases, the first involving a detailed interview in which representatives of HCD were asked numerous questions pertaining to the motivation, process, and benefit of the company's Health & Safety Control Loss Plan as well as their green building & sustainability programs. Researchers wanted to know how and why the company's programs were making a difference in the construction of their projects and the health and safety of the work place.

The second phase of the study will be conducted upon completion of the initial interviews, when the data collected has been analyzed.