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Thousands of construction workers could lose ability to work without OSHA training

As many as 88,000 Nevadans* who work in construction and related fields have less than three months to complete OSHA training required by state law, or they could lose the right to work in the state.

OSHA-authorized instructors provided by Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) through their Division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, will teach classes at the Sierra Nevada Community Access Television (SNCAT) studios in the Meadowood Mall, in Reno. The live class will be Web-streamed live to satellite locations across the state by SNCAT, making the training more accessible and affordable to Nevada workers. Workers can determine if they are required to have the training and register for classes at www.nvosha.com.

"What this kind of training does is present a convenient way for workers to obtain high quality training at a very reasonable cost," said Scott McKay, the OSHA Training Institute Education Center Director at UCSD. "The purpose of the training is not just to meet the requirements of a law, but to protect their lives and the lives of their co-workers."

The deaths of 12 workers at Las Vegas Strip construction sites over an 18-month period prompted the Nevada Legislature to pass AB-148 requiring more safety training. Nevada workers in the building trades, construction and maintenance have until Dec. 31 to complete their 10-hour OSHA safety training for construction workers and 30-hour OSHA construction supervisor's training. Companies must drop workers who don't get the training by Dec. 31.

"The deadline for this training is coming up really fast," said Les Smith, SNCAT executive director. "So, being able to stream the classes to multiple locations around the state is vital to getting this training done. This is especially true for construction workers in the rural areas who can't find a class or those in the urban areas where traditional classes will quickly fill-up as the deadline arrives."

SNCAT is offering classes at its studios in the Meadowood Mall in Reno that will be streamed live to satellite locations across the state. Upon completion of the courses, workers will receive certification of completion, which will be good for five years. The 10-hour class costs \$59.

"This kind of training is probably not that easy to find, and the training they will receive this way is the highest quality training available," McKay said. "I think there will be some people who will be untrained in January and they will be out of a job."

Who needs the training?

- Those working on a construction site, or doing demolition, remodeling, or a build-out of an existing structure in Nevada.
- This training is required for workers who are currently employed in construction and want to continue working in Nevada and for those who aren't currently working, but would like to start working in Nevada.

* The number of workers supplied by the Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation.