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To Save Lives in Construction, Eliminate Unsafe Choices

Knowledge of human behavior shows us how to prevent decisions that lead to accidents



By Thomas "T.J." Lyons

To get to the local post office in my town, you can take the sidewalk or cut across a lawn using a well-worn path. This year, the town added flagstones to that shortcut to save the lawn. Quicker and faster always trumps planning.

Humans are an odd lot. We make decisions based on how we are raised and what hurt us or saved us from pain. We always choose what is easy, what we were taught or what we think is right. And that tendency has a lot to do with safety. When humans finally recognize, and admit, how often we make poor decisions, we will prevent construction accidents and kill fewer souls.

Those decisions involve everything from our day-to-day lives to the operation of the most safety-critical equipment. For example, on my roof is an anchorage to tie-off a safety harness when shoveling snow off the skylights. That prevents me from falling through the skylight, but first I must decide to wear my gear and then decide to take the time to connect to the anchorage for a three-minute task. Another, much more complicated type of decision was made by the staff at the Three Mile

Island nuclear plant, near Middletown, Pa., in 1979. An emergency core cooling system activated and injected cool water under high pressure into the reactor. Believing the relief valve was closed and fearing they would inject too much water, the reactor crew shut off the cooling water pump. They didn't understand what was happening, and what they did was consistent with their training. But the result was a partial core meltdown and one of the worst-ever nuclear accidents.

Sometimes we fail to eliminate the conditions that lead to bad decisions. For example, few are aware of the lead exposure from powder-actuated nail guns and similar tools, which rely on small controlled exposions. The shells may contain lead styphnate in the powder charge and rather than banish these unsafe cartridges from use, general contractors often require a subcontractor to implement a lead-exposure monitoring program or suggest using lead-free shells. If we prohibited them from U.S. worksites, the market would dry up, only lead-free shots could be sold and the decision about whether to use them would be eliminated.

There are other examples.

When a worker fell through the skylight of a building in California, the authorities investigat-

ed and recommended restricting access to the roof to properly trained employees. But there is a simpler way: require skylights that sustain the weight of a human being. Because we don't do that now, a killing condition likely remains in existence, waiting for the next warehouse worker.

In order to eliminate the remaining fatal accidents that occur in construction, we must remove the chance for someone to make a poor decision or remember to make that decision.

There are many areas in which this approach can be applied. We should re-engineer scaffolding so that it cannot be constructed without side railings, then workers would not need to remember to install side railings and the workers would be unable to remove them during the work (that's the way it is done in Japan). We should redesign or prohibit the use of hand-held gas-powered chop or demolition saws, which would eliminate the danger of an operator losing control. Aa we know, when a chainsaw blade

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Publisher of

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Is requesting quotes from qualified MBE/DBE Subcontractors, Suppliers, and Service Providers for the following (but not limited to) work:

AC Paving, Cold Plane AC, Electrical, PCC Paving, Seeding, Striping & Signage, Survey, Demo Dispose of AC/PCC, Trucking – Super Tens, Strong Arms, Bottom Dumps, SWPPP, CAB, CMB, RCP, Concrete

FRESNO YOSEMITE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TAXIWAY C RECONSTRUCTION

City of Fresno

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT NO. 3-06-0087-FFY2017
BID FILE NUMBER: 3519

BID DATE May 16, 2017 @ 3:00 p.m.

Sub & Vendor Quotes Due Prior

Sukut Construction, LLC

4010 W. Chandler Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92704 Contact: Matt Bahnsen

Phone: (714) 540-5351 • Fax: (714) 545-2003 • Email: estimating@sukut.com

Plans/specs are available for viewing at our office by appointment or via ftp, or may be obtained from Owner. Subcontractors must be prepared to furnish 100% performance and payment bonds and possess current insurance and workers' comp coverage. Sukut Construction will assist Qualified Subcontractors in obtaining bonds, insurance, and/or lines of credit. Please contact Sukut Construction for assistance in responding to this solicitation. Subcontractors/Vendors will be required to sign Sukut's Standard Subcontract/Purchase Order. Copies are available for examination.

Sukut Construction's listing of a Subcontractor in its bid to the agency is not to be construed as an acceptance of all of the Subcontractor's conditions or exceptions included with Subcontractor's price quotes. Quotations must be valid for the same duration as specified by Owner for contract award.

Sukut Construction, LLC

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REQUEST FOR CERTIFIED SUBCONTRACTORS, SUPPLIERS & TRUCKERS FOR:

Wet Weather Equalization Basin Project
Contract No. C030
Pacifica, CA
Bid Date: April 27, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

Work types requested, but are not limited to, the following:

Electrical & Instrumentation, Fence Work, Rebar, Micro Pile, Landscaping, Striping Work, Sign Work, Concrete Supply, Hollow Core Precast Panel System, Pumps & Mechanical Work, Odor Control System, Bore & Jack, Slurry Wall and Fiber Glass Storage Shed.

Plans and Specifications are available for review at our office, or can be downloaded online at the following website: http://www.cityofpacifica.org/government/rfps/rfpDetailView.asp?pageID=84

Call for assistance in obtaining bonds, line of credit, insurance and scheduling accommodations.

Gordon N. Ball, Inc. Attn: ESTIMATING

333 Camille Ave., Alamo, CA 94507 Phone: (925) 838-5675 • Fax: (925) 838-0814 estimating@ballconco.com

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Proven Management, Inc.

225 3rd Street, Oakland, CA 94607 Phone: 510-671-0000 • Fax: 510-671-1000

PMI requests proposals/quotes from all qualified and certified MBE/WBE subcontractors, suppliers, and truckers for the following project:

BALBOA PARK STATION WAYFINDING IMPROVEMENTS BART Contract No. 110G-121 Bids: May 2, 2017 @ 2 pm

The work in this contract includes but is not limited to: Selective Demolition; Portland Cement Concrete; Concrete Reinforcing; CIP Concrete; Non-Shrink Grout; Metal Welding; Metal Fabrications; Decorative Metal; Flashing & Sheet Metal; Firestopping; Painting; Signage; Post & Panel Wayfinding System; Station Identification Pylon; Illuminated Cabinet Signage; Real-Time Information Display; Real-Time Information Display; Remote Power Switches; Electrical; Low Voltage Wires & Cables; Grounding & Bonding for Electrical Systems; Circuit Breakers & Panelboards; Data Communications Network Equipment.

PMI will provide assistance in obtaining necessary bonding, insurance, equipment, supplies, materials or other related services. 100% Payment & Performance bonds will be required from a single, Treasury-listed surety company subject to PMI's approval. PMI will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. Subcontractors awarded on any project will be on PMI's standard form for subcontract without any modifications. For questions or assistance required on the above, please contact Ben Pearce at ben@provenmanagement. com PMI is signatory to the Operating Engineers, Carpenters, and Laborers Collective Bargaining Agreements.

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Requesting Sub Bids from Qualified MBE / DVBE / DBE / WBE Subcontractors & Suppliers

Dudley Elevator Project Location: 172 6th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 Bid Date: May 5, 2017

Walk through -Wednesday 4/26/17 @ 11:00 AM, 172 6th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Trades:

Electrical, HVAC, Fire Alarm, Scaffolding, Painting

NCR Construction Inc.

1035 W. Grand Avenue • Oakland, CA 94607 Phone: 800-440-4336 • Fax: 866-627-3294 Contact: Bernie Nestal

Email: Bernie@NCRConstructioninc.com

Assistance is available in obtaining any necessary bonding; lines of credit or insurance; information related to the requirements for the work; and necessary equipment, supplies materials, or related services. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office.



PROJECT NAME

Fire Station 35, Pier 22.5, SF, CA.
BID DATE: Friday May 12, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
EMAIL TO: Bill Krill Bkrill@swinerton.com

Swinerton Builders is requesting quotations from ALL subs.

15% LBE Participation required, must be Certified by City of San Francisco.

Building Construction Estimate is \$16m.

SCOPE OF WORK:

To protect against sea-level rise and earthquakes, the City of San Francisco plans to procure a new approximately 16,034 gsf Fire Station on top of a floating barge at piers 22.5/24 (just north of the Bay Bridge) in San Francisco. This is a complete design-build project which is on Port of San Francisco land and will be managed by the San Francisco Department of Public Works (with LBE requirements) with funding thru the Emergency Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) Bond passed in 2014. SFDPW plans to issue a Notice-to-Proceed by 8/01/17 to the Design-Builder with start of construction no later than 12/01/18. Project consists of a new steel barge with vehicle and pedestrian access ramps, and will provide berthing for three Fire Boats, smallcraft storage and launching, dive equipment and boat, ambulance access and living quarters for Fire crews and officers.

TRADES:

Structural steel, Metal decking, Concrete Rebar/ Place/finish, CMU, Exterior Metal Panels, Traffic coating, Insulation, Waterproofing, Roofing, Drywall, DFH, Glazing, Paint, Ceramic Tile, Metal Lockers, Kitchen Appliances, Mechoshades, Casework, Elevator, MEPS, AV, Telecom, Roll-up Doors, Site Utilities."

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS:

Please email Joyce Pon jpon@swinerton.com to request access to the project documents.

WE REQUEST BIDS FROM ALL SUBS Please submit your bid to BKrill@swinerton.com "Swinerton is an Equal Employment Opportunity, Minority, Women, Disability, and Veteran Employer"

California Sub-Bid Request Ads

AECOM

One California Plaza . 300 S. Grand Avenue . Los Angeles, CA 90071

REQUEST FOR CBE SUBCONSULTANT INTEREST

AECOM is bidding on the following project as Prime Contractor:

Owner: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Request for Proposals

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Implementation Construction Management

and Support Services
AED Project ID #AED7740042
Proposal due date May 10, 2017 at 2pm

AECOM is seeking qualifications from Community Business Enterprises (CBEs) for the following work:

- Facilities Support Management Services
- Industrial and Labor Consultants
- Public Relations Services
- · Construction Services Estimating
- Construction Services Management
- Construction Services Scheduling
- Medical & Health Services Medical Management Consultants & Services
- Medical & Health Services Medical Offices, Clinics, & Hospitals
- Scheduling
- Cost Control
- LEED Certification Process
- Sustainability
- Office Administration
- Document Control
- Construction Quality
- Constructability
- BIM Implementation
- Inspection Services
- Change Management
- Progressive Design-Build Experience

Experience providing similar services to the County of Los Angeles is preferred. This proposal is in alignment with the County of Los Angeles CBE Program requirements and certified CBEs are encouraged to respond. The CBE Program includes business enterprises owned by disabled veterans, disadvantaged business enterprises, and minority- and women-owned business enterprises.

Interested businesses should email a brief overview of County of Los Angeles experience, along with CBE documentation by Monday, April 24, 2017, to Elaine Lu at elaine.lu@aecom.com, or by Phone (916) 202-8424 or by fax at (714) 689-7349.

Assistance is available in obtaining any necessary bonding; lines of credit or insurance; information related to the requirements for the work; and necessary equipment, supplies materials, or related services.

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Mass Electric Construction Co.

DBE Bidding Opportunities Los Angeles, CA

Regional Connector Transit Corridor Project for Metro Contract No. C0980

Opportunities to provide sub-quotes include:

• FRE Conduit/ HV Box Procure and Install

Time Frame: Work is expected to begin in November 2018 and go through February 2019 Notice of Interest Response

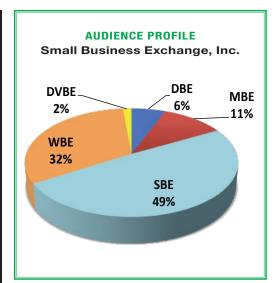
Deadline: May 5, 2017

Contact Information:

George Cendejas • (213-537-3981) • gcendejas@masselec.com

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This solicitation is in response to Metro's DBE requirements and MECT intends to conduct itself in good faith with DBE firms seeking subcontract opportunities for the contract.



To Save Lives in Construction

Continued from page 1

jams. the chain halts but the demo saw's blades continue spinning until the worker stops them by touching the saw to the ground — or to a carotid artery.

And we should eliminate the blind spot on some models of rough-terrain fork trucks, as the operator cannot see to the right. This blind spot has figured in fatal accidents, including one that took the life of a good friend of mine, named John Hanson. We should only use rough-terrain fork truck models that allow operators to see to both the left and the right.

Reaching a Safer Future

As we move further into this century, it is time to rid ourselves of unsafe choices embedded in our traditions. We need to supply tools that capture silica, rather than hoping a worker will wear a respirator. We need machines that place pipe in deep excavations so that this dangerous task doesn't have to be done by our co-workers, neighbors, parents and children. We need electrical panel boxes with warning lights that let craft workers know a killing condition is on the other side and engineered so workers cannot open these when the power is on. My washing machine already has that safety feature.

We must eliminate unsafe choices over what we know is safe and prohibit what we know kills so that it is easier for workers to stay alive and unharmed.

Thomas "T.J." Lyons is a safety director in New York with Gilbane Building Co. He can be reached at tlyons@gilbaneco.com.

SOURCE: http://www.enr.com

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