

Building Category – Under 100,000 Work Hours

MDI Inc., General Contractors

Educating their
way to success



"Being in business for over 40 years has taught MDI Inc. that safety is a top priority. We take pride in the fact that we are known throughout the industry as a good, safe company."

MDI includes safety in with its other core values of compassion, quality, dedication and integrity, reporting that these elements keep "the company strong with our clients and our employees." Because the company does much of its work for the school system, MDI also reaches beyond the jobsite to educate the school district's safety personnel, principals and teachers to ensure a safe place for students. Often, the company has to "childproof" its construction areas in existing schools, and educate the faculty, children and parents to provide the safest jobsite possible.

None of these efforts would be possible, of course, without the full commitment and resources of the company, whose goal is to exceed minimum standards on the path to accident-free job sites. And perhaps not surprisingly, education plays a large role in MDI's program. The safety committee—comprised of the president; vice president, director of operations; and vice president, director of field operations—has successfully completed QUOIN's safety courses as well as other orientations, seminars, DISD safety orientation and numerous safety workshops. All superintendents and project managers are either in the process of completing or have completed the construction site safety (CSS) classes. And every MDI employee, including the office staff, has a minimum of an OSHA 10-Hour certi-

fication and CPR/First Aid certification. New employees are required to attend a safety orientation conducted by the director of field operations when they are hired, and MDI provides written material, videos and other educational aids in both English and in Spanish.

MDI believes that the superintendent is the linchpin to a successful accident-prevention program, because their close contact with the work environment and the people performing the work make them best qualified to translate safety principles and best practices into on-the-job routines. As such, MDI superintendents constantly instill into the staff the wisdom of both observing safety procedures established for their work and using the prescribed protective equipment. They also enforce the safety procedures and rules that apply to the work they supervise. Weekly meetings are held with the project team in which the safety program's compliance and progress are discussed and action taken, if necessary. All jobsites have computers with Internet access, giving the superintendents access to additional safety information as needed.

To further promote safety throughout the company, MDI added a safety section to its quarterly company newsletter. There, the company provides tips, updates and other safety-related information not only to the employees, but also to their families and friends. MDI also gives away personalized key chains stating "Our Commitment to Safety" to clients and employees as a reminder, feeling that it will help remind them that safety is a way of life whether they are at work or at home.

The company provides tips, updates and other safety-related information not only to the employees, but also to their families and friends.