

# Suicide Prevention in the Construction Industry: Know the Signs and Help a Life

Live Webinar on Wednesday, September 13th at 2:00pm Eastern

**Moderator:** Chris Trahan Cain, CIH, Executive Director, CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training

## Panelists:

- Raffi F. Elchemmas, CSP, MBA, Executive Director, Safety, Health and Risk Management, Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
- Alexander M. Kopp, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)
- Randy Dye, Chairman, Race to Stop Suicide
- Kevin Striegle, Manager, Daniel Dye Racing & Race to Stop Suicide
- Justin Crandol, MS, CSP, ARM, CRIS, Director of Safety, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA)
- Wesley L. Wheeler, SMS, CESC, Executive Director of Safety, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)

Featuring *NASCAR driver Daniel Dye's race team* and the *Race to Stop Suicide* for a conversation about real issues & ways to spot signs of depression or feelings of hopelessness in colleagues, employees, and loved ones!

And a brand-new video on overcoming suicidal thoughts from *Justin Azbill* (National EH&S Director at Milwaukee Tool)



<http://cpwr.com/webinars>



# Suicide in the Construction Industry

**Raffi Elchemmas, CSP, MBA**

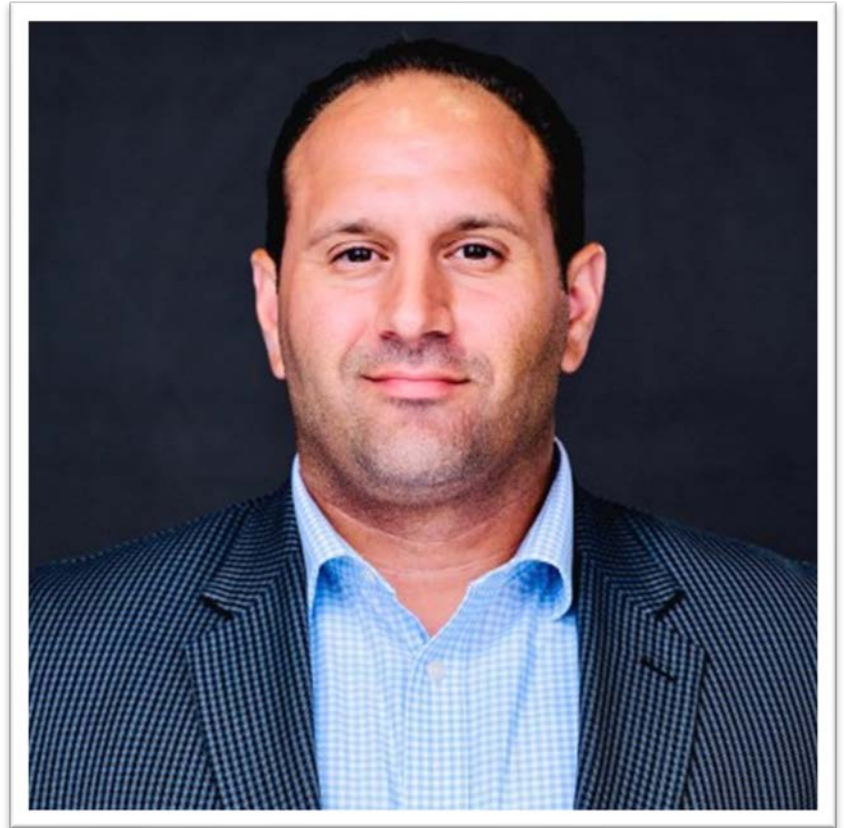
Executive Director

Safety, Health and Risk Management

*Mechanical Contractors Association of America*

# MCAA

Mechanical Contractors Association of America



[raffi@mcaa.org](mailto:raffi@mcaa.org)

# Suicide in the Construction Industry

- Construction continues to have one of the highest suicide rates across all industries.
- About four times higher than the general population.
- Approximately 1,000 jobsites deaths each year in construction.
- Approximately 5,000 deaths by suicide.
- Mental Health Awareness could be one of the biggest opportunities to make a difference in our industry today.

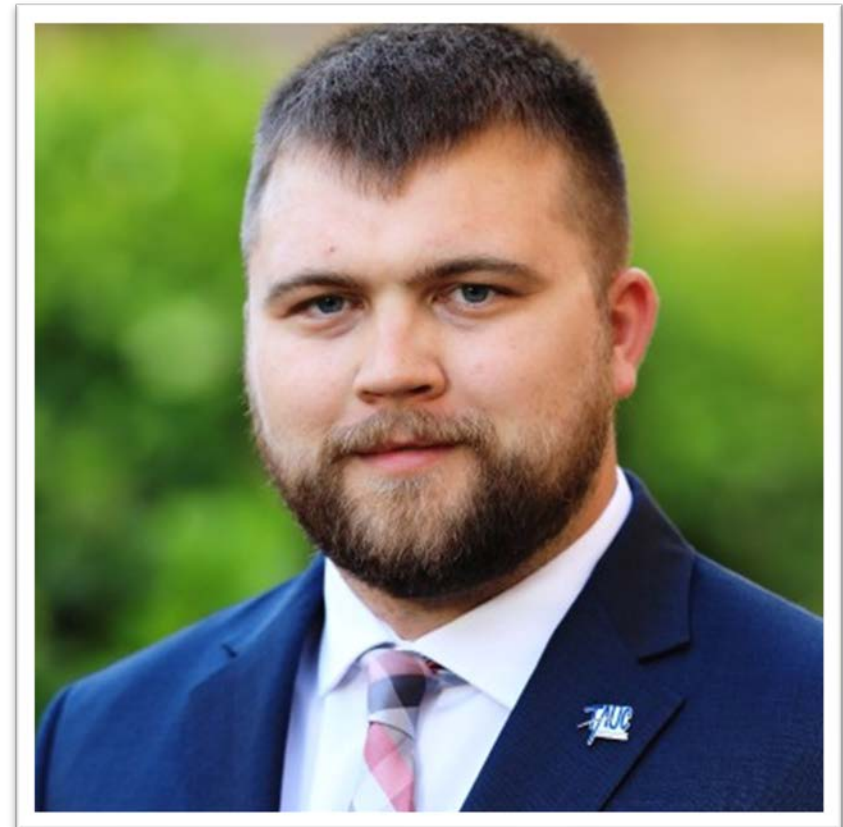


# What Are Our Organizations Doing?

## Alexander M. Kopp

Director of Environmental Health  
and Safety

*The Association of Union  
Constructors (TAUC)*



[akopp@tauc.org](mailto:akopp@tauc.org)

# CPWR Resources

## Webpages on Suicide Prevention & Opioids:

<https://cpwr.com/mentalhealth>

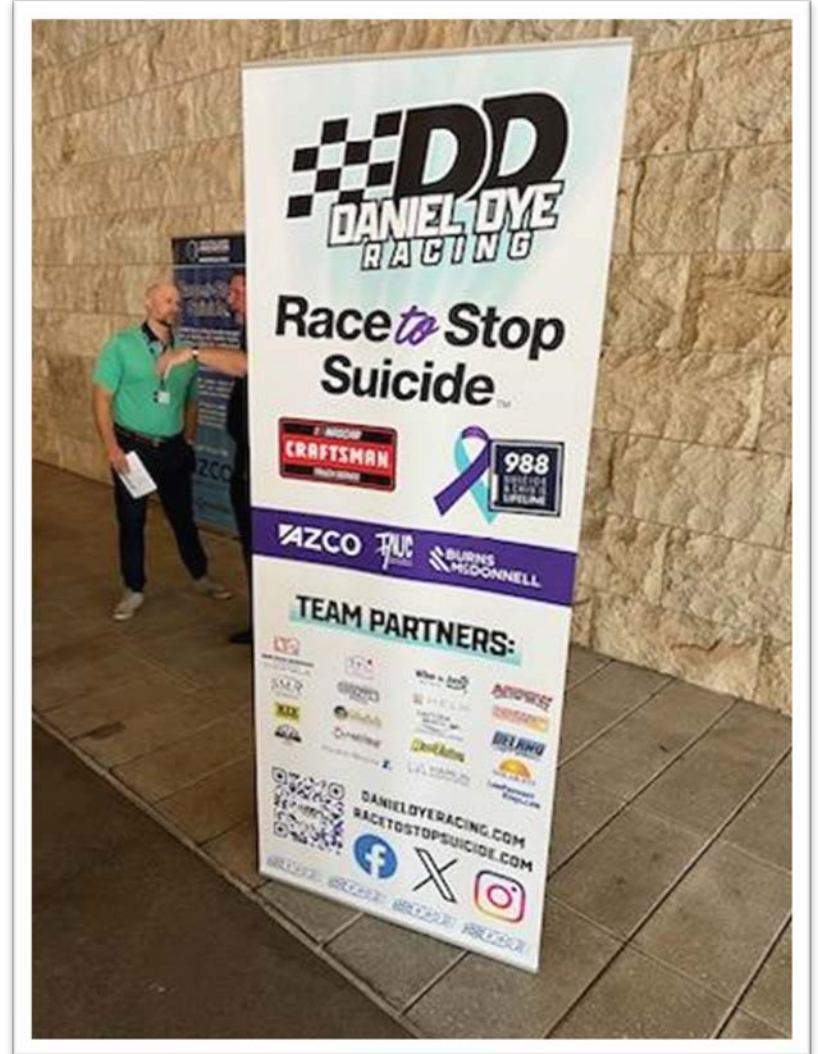
- New Training Materials for Building Resilience
- [2021 Webinar: Supporting Construction Workers: Suicide Prevention, Mental Health, and Substance Use](#)
- [Key Findings from Research](#): Psychological distress and suicidal ideation among male construction workers in the United States
- Hazard Alert: Preventing Suicide Prevention in Construction — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Toolbox Talk: Suicide Prevention in Construction — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Toolbox Talk: Workplace Stress — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Infographic: Start a Conversation — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Infographic: Reach Out — [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

# Increasing Awareness

- **TAUC/MCAA/NECA/SMACNA Chips & Stickers**



# Race to Stop Suicide Event



# Daniel Dye Racing & The Race to Stop Suicide

**Kevin Striegler**

Manager

*Daniel Dye Racing and the  
Race to Stop Suicide*



[kevin@danieldyerracing.com](mailto:kevin@danieldyerracing.com)



**Randy Dye**

President

*Daniel Dye Racing*

# On-Board Camera



Daniel Dye FOX Onboard

<https://youtu.be/aXw0jY3L0aA?si=fah9k1rC4fytUg9p>

# Daniel Dye's Message



Daniel Dye Race to Stop Suicide

[https://youtu.be/mmWIVeO36IE?si=5b-m\\_NR9CevgPdwe](https://youtu.be/mmWIVeO36IE?si=5b-m_NR9CevgPdwe)



[www.danielyeracing.com/](http://www.danielyeracing.com/)

<https://racetostopsuicide.com/>

# It Can Happen to Anyone

**Justin Crandol, MS, CSP, ARM, CRIS**

Director of Safety

*Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning  
Contractors' National Association  
(SMACNA)*



[jcrandol@smacna.org](mailto:jcrandol@smacna.org)



<https://youtu.be/RqpyrH-sR4k>

[justin.azbill@milwaukeeetool.com](mailto:justin.azbill@milwaukeeetool.com)

# Call to Action

**Wesley L. Wheeler, SMS, CESCO**

Executive Director of Safety, *National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)*

Board Member, *Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP)*



[wesley.wheeler@necanet.org](mailto:wesley.wheeler@necanet.org)

# Creating a Culture of Care

- Leadership support
- Injury management/return to work programs
- Flexibility with scheduling
- Setting reasonable expectations
- Peer-support groups & team-building activities
- Financial education
- Substance use education
- Reduce jobsite access to lethal means
- Train management in soft skills and communication
- Train and develop employees to reach their full potential
- Build in protective factors for veterans



# Intangibles and Intuition

- Share your story
- Engagement
- Make a phone call
- Invite someone to lunch
- Schedule afterwork and weekend activities
- Include EVERYONE!
- Create a post on LinkedIn/Social Media letting people know they can reach out to you if they need someone to talk to.
- Who is that person you have not spoken with in weeks? In Months? In Years?



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Thank you!  
QUESTIONS?

<http://cpwr.com/webinars>



## **Additional Resources from the 9/13 Suicide Prevention in the Construction Industry Webinar**

Many of the resources mentioned in this webinar can be found directly in the slides here:

<https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/suicide-prevention-webinar-9-13-23.pdf>.

The following links were shared in the chat by panelists and other webinar attendees. Not all of them have been previously vetted by CPWR or our webinar partners.

- About 988: <https://988lifeline.org/current-events/the-lifeline-and-988/>
- 988 logos and other media resources:
- Daniel Dye Racing Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DanielDyeRacing>
- CPWR Mental Health Dashboard: <https://www.cpwr.com/research/data-center/data-dashboards/construction-worker-mental-health/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>
- Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention: <https://preventconstructionsuicide.com/>
- Information on the Living Works training and how to get the short version for free via CIASP: <https://preventconstructionsuicide.com/Training>
- Mental Health First Aid training: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>
- CPWR Worker resilience training: <https://www.cpwr.com/research/research-to-practice-r2p/r2p-library/other-resources-for-stakeholders/mental-health-addiction/>
- <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- <https://yinzgood.com/>
- <https://www.iuoe825.org/home/members/local-825-member-assistance-program/>
- CPWR peer advocacy paper: [https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/Peer\\_Advocacy\\_Construction\\_Workers\\_Struggling\\_Substance\\_Use.pdf](https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/Peer_Advocacy_Construction_Workers_Struggling_Substance_Use.pdf)
- Vital Cog: <https://www.coloradodepressioncenter.org/vitalcog/>