

# Risk Management

case study

## Goal

BEAR Construction was selected as the general contractor to renovate a historic Chicago landmark, the Old Post Office. The worksite contains just about every safety challenge imaginable, so a robust plan was needed to minimize risk, as well as identify exposures and potential OSHA penalties.

## Action Plan

BEAR Construction worked with Assurance's safety team to conduct site audits, OSHA trainings and implement aggressive risk management strategies.

## Achievements

- » \$161,100 savings in potential OSHA site planning penalties
- » \$990,00 savings in potential OSHA training penalties
- » \$2M+ in potential OSHA site audit penalties

**\$3M+**

savings in potential OSHA penalties

## BEAR Construction Prevents Significant OSHA Penalties Through Focus on Safety

### The Story

BEAR Construction is a Chicagoland leader in general contracting and construction management. In the fall of 2016, they became the general contractor for Chicago's Old Post Office, a historical landmark in the city that spans over Congress Parkway. It has been vacant since the completion of the new post office across the street. In 2016, after the sale to 601 W, a redevelopment plan was quickly implemented.

BEAR Construction knew that safety would be a major challenge for this project, as the building had numerous code deficiencies and was in a state of disrepair. Before work began, BEAR turned to their business partner, Assurance, to help formalize a plan to ensure safety during all phases of the project and schedule safety advocates to continuously monitor the worksite, which included 45 subcontractors and dozens of projects.

There were three main steps taken for this project to run smoothly:

- 1. Site Planning** - Before any contractor can begin work, they're required to develop a site-specific safety plan and submit it to BEAR Construction for review. This helps BEAR ensure that the safety measures being proposed are adequate for the work being performed.
- 2. Training** - All BEAR employees and contractors working on-site are required to go through an orientation before starting. This orientation covers details of the site, safety information and emergency procedures.
- 3. Site Audits** - Assurance's safety team conducts an audit 2-3 times per week with BEAR Construction personnel. For the first year, this totaled 92 audits. Within these audits, 503 at-risk safety observations were identified, representing potential OSHA penalties of more than \$2 million that were able to be corrected before an issue arose. BEAR's General Superintendent & Site Safety Manager also walks the site multiple times daily to observe the work environment and make sure contractors are performing their work safely.

In partnership with Assurance's safety team, BEAR has achieved outstanding safety results for this project to date, including: site planning plans which have prevented a potential \$161,100 in OSHA penalties, training that avoids potential penalties of \$990,00 and site audits preventing potential OSHA penalties for more than \$2M.

### Get in Touch

Learn how Assurance's Risk Management advisors can help you obtain measurable results.  
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