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Project: Survey of Small to Medium-sized Construction Companies: Commitment to Safety and Health

Tasks completed: The survey has been through 2 focus groups of small contractors. The participants had a number of good suggestions for modifications. These changes were made. The survey is also being developed into a web-based survey. This will allow the contractors to complete either the paper copy or complete it on-line.

The participants in the focus groups also suggested that contractors would be more inclined to participate if the survey were to come from the AGC (Association of General Contractors) or some other reputable association rather than just a researcher at UC. I have placed numerous calls to the safety and health office at the AGC in Washington DC. Apparently Carolyn, the director (whom I know) has been on leave for the past few months. Her assistant, Justin, seems to be overwhelmed with the position. I have spoken with my contact at the Cincinnati chapter of the AGC (Allied Construction Inc - ACI). She is going to follow-up with Justin for me. She also said that if the National office was not able to help, that ACI would help me, as they have in the past. I also spoke with a contact in Cleveland who told me that there was going to be an AGC meeting held there this summer. I might attend that meeting as a way to facilitate this process.

I purchased a Dun and Bradstreet list of contractors from Survey Sampling Inc.. It contains approximately 10,000 names of small to medium-sized commercial contractors nation-wide. If the national AGC office agrees to participate we will first cross reference names on the D & B list with the AGC membership list. Then we will randomly sample names from this list to whom we will send a letter requesting participation (on AGC letterhead), a hard copy of the survey, and the web-link so that they are able to complete the survey on-line if they wish. Given the amount of available funds, this will likely have be a limited, rather than a completely representative, national sample of contractors. If we are unable to obtain cooperation from the National office, we will conduct the survey regionally (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan) with the members of local AGC chapters. It is likely that we will send letters to all contractors fitting the criteria (AGC members and on the D & B list)

Tasks for next quarter:

- Finish web-based survey development.
- Create database to capture web-based (and hard-copy) survey data.
- Make arrangements either with the national AGC office or with regional AGC chapters to support this survey effort.
- Cross-reference AGC membership lists with the D & B list and select the survey sample (if being sent nationally). If being done regionally, the survey will likely be sent to all contractors whose name appears on both lists.
- Obtain e-mail addresses for contractors (for web-based survey reminders).
- Send out letters and surveys.
- Begin data entry.