

Why is Competent Person Safety Training Necessary?

Federal OSHA has visited 47 Habitat for Humanity affiliates according to the OSHA.gov establishment search. Some OSHA visits are planned inspection; others were because of complaints and serious accidents involving a fatality. Federal OSHA only oversees 25 states; the remaining 25 states have their own federally approved state safety plans in place. Therefore, additional records are kept separately from Federal records and does not reflect the actual number of all 50 states visited by OSHA. Affiliates need to follow their state plan if in fact their state has an approved state plan (see OSHA.gov homepage state plan drop down box).

The following program is based upon Federal rules. All state approved plans must meet or exceed federal rules. Most state plans follow the federal rules word for word with only slight modifications to select areas of interest for that state.

OSHA requires for a Competent Person (CP) to be on-site to help recognize unsafe situations and to make necessary corrections in recognized high hazard areas. OSHA does have jurisdiction of HFH properties if they can establish an Employer/ Employee relationship. If you have one or more persons on payroll, then you have the Employer/ Employee relationship formed. The program offered to you is only the beginning of what's necessary. However, it's designed to cover the most serious hazards, according to OSHA and HFH. It is based upon the most common working conditions found at all HFH building sites. OSHA has actually identified 15 high hazard areas which require a Competent Person. However, the Competent Person Training Program offered by HFHI will provide training on four (4) of those areas:

- Residential Fall Protection
- Scaffolding (Fabricated Type-Pump Jack Type-Bracket Type)
- General Jobsite Electrical Safety
- Stairways & Ladders

Who is your on-site Competent Person? In the event of an accident or OSHA makes an unexpected visit, the first question they'll ask is: Who's your on-site Competent Person? This will eventually be followed up by required documentation, either from a former employer or from outside training, such as this program. If a person claims to be the Competent Person, OSHA will then begin brief questioning to see how knowledgeable the person is regarding OSHA standards regarding related work activities. Here's your question: Can your designated person answer tough quick questions from OSHA while on your jobsite? OSHA may ask questions such as:

- You have 10 workers on the roof shingling. Can you tell who did their training? What type of fall protection anchor system are you using? Are you using it as a fall restraining system or fall arrest system?
- There are step ladders leaning upon the side of the home. Can you explain why they're not fully opened and on secure footing? Who trained the individuals on-site and can you show me the documentation of training.



- On this side of the home, I see scaffolding. Who's the Competent Person that oversees the daily inspections before usage? Can you tell me what you're inspections consist of or do you have a daily inspection log?

This program will cover massive amounts of information in 16 hours of training. **This is a full 2 day program!** The participants will learn how to use the OSHA.gov website for referencing OSHA Standards, publications and training tools among many other informational items. Each affiliate and participant will receive a record of training and a certificate of completion. Successful completion of the training is defined by successfully scoring a 70% or higher on each written exam. There will be an exam given for each of the four (4) sections discussed. Two signatures are required on the certificate to become a Competent Person, one signature from the Instructor and one from the Executive Director of the affiliate. This certification will be valid for three (3) years, at which time you will have to renew.

What's the cost of Competent Person Training? You could opt-out of HFHI Competent Person Training and attend a Competent Person Training from OTI (OSHA Training Institute) located throughout the country. Most OTI's are located on local college campuses (i.e. USF in Tampa, Georgia Tech in Atlanta, etc.). The programs are one (1) day each with cost ranging from approximately **\$250 to \$799 per topic**.

***The cost for Habitat for Humanity OSHA Competent Person Training program is \$100 per person.**

The cost is far less than the amount you would spend at the OTI centers. HFHI training package is tailored to fit building scenarios that are unique to HFH and does not include commercial work practices. However, OTI centers training will be based upon the full OSHA standard information, including commercial work related practices.

HOSTING A COMPETENT PERSON TRAINING

You may choose to host a training at your affiliate or attend a training being hosted by a nearby affiliate. Affiliates are encouraged to invite nearby affiliates to participate in the Competent Person Training that they're hosting. As a host, we suggest reaching out to affiliates within a 130 mile radius to increase attendance for your event. One major requirement to host a training is that your affiliate have adequate classroom space to accommodate the anticipated attendees.

Funds collected for Competent Persons Safety Training should be forwarded to the address below.

For more information about hosting a Competent Person Training at your affiliate, please contact:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Attn: SHENI RELFORD

Construction Technologies Department

270 Peachtree Street

Suite 1300

Atlanta, GA 30303

safety@habitat.org

**This cost is subject to change. HFHI will charge \$100 per person. The host affiliate may increase the cost to cover their expense as a host.*