

Recently, I was asked for my thoughts on the safety challenges the U.S. engineering and construction industry is facing in 2023. To get a broader view, I put the question to the CEOs of 11 different construction companies.

there were two areas of concern that almost all of them shared. If you are facing similar issues at your organization, you are not alone.

### **POST-PANDEMIC PERFORMANCE ISSUES**

After three years where the pandemic dominated strategy and business as usual. However, much of the construction industry is still feeling the effects of the changes it made to keep the workforce safe.

This has prevented many companies from returning to the way they operated pre-pandemic. A large number of the CEOs whose opinions I sought have found themselves addressing performance issues they believed had been resolved years ago.

Worryingly, some 80% of the executives reported that, for the moving in the wrong direction.

This is even more remarkable when you note that all these companies recorded their best ever safety performance during the most dangerous periods of the pandemic. The CEOs attribute this to the intense focus on health and strictly

enforced protocols to prevent spread of the disease. These

up," he said. "What worked in the past is not being done now and this is leaving a big gap."

What worked in the past to make safety personal, relevant and important was continual interaction between supervision and the workforce.

"Relationship is fundamental to the caring and planning it

Myers said. "We need to lead our people away from computer screens and back to hanging out with the men and women on the front line. We need management and supervision to get

ground."

Many of the executives shared similar views. They also noted that because of the hiatus in training, many in their workforce have not received the core and critical programs that enable them to work safely.

If this gap in training isn't addressed and resolved in 2023, there may be dire consequences. In response, construction companies are rapidly ramping up their training programs to establish a minimum level of competency and commitment from supervision through to the workforce.

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## About the Author

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## About the Article

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