



# SAFETY & HEALTH

## CONCRETE TODAY

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4575 West Highway 40  
Ocala, Florida 34482  
Toll-Free 866-351-1124  
Fax 352-351-4730  
www.concretetoday.com

### PUBLISHING

#### PUBLISHER / EDITOR

Don Allen  
Email: donallen@concretetoday.com

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ashraf M. Ghaly, PE, Ph.D.  
Frank B. Arenas, B.S., J.D.  
George Hedley  
John Vitko  
Lisa Weaver  
Nancy Snyder  
Nicole Cleveringa  
Sue Marquette Poremba  
W.B. King

#### GRAPHICS

Email: graphics@concretetoday.com

#### ADVERTISING / MARKETING

Kim McLane  
Office: 407-401-9735  
Fax: 352-351-4730  
Email: advertising@concretetoday.com

#### FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Lee Russell

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## UNIONS SUE DOL OVER PPE

*OSHA rule 8 years overdue, they say*

AFL-CIO and the United Food and Commercial Workers sued the U.S. Department of Labor over its failure to issue a standard that would require employers to pay for personal protective equipment.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, asks the court to issue an order directing the Secretary of Labor to complete the PPE rule within 60 days of the court's order. The rule would require employers to pay the costs of protective clothing, lifelines, face shields, gloves and other equipment used by an estimated 20 million workers to protect them from job hazards.

The rule was first announced in 1997 and formally proposed in 1999 by OSHA, after the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission ruled that the agency's existing PPE standard could not be interpreted to require employers to pay for protective equipment.

"Nothing is standing in the way of OSHA issuing a final PPE rule to protect worker safety and health except the will to do so. It is long overdue that the agency take action on protective equipment. Now, we are asking the courts to force OSHA to act," said Joseph Hansen, UFCW International President.

*Source: Safety Currents Express*

## WALKING IN THE NEW YEAR

**AHA unveils employer wellness program**

For companies looking to start or add to an employee wellness program, the American Heart Association might be of help. AHA recently launched a campaign designed to encourage Americans to improve their health through walking.

An integral part of the "Start!" campaign is helping employers start walking programs at work. AHA's program helps employers set up walking routes, encourage employees to use them and then reward employee efforts. It also includes a fit-friendly companies program, CEO events and an online tracking tool employees can use to track mileage and daily dietary intake.



*Please visit them at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)*