



September 1, 2023

Construction has one of the highest rates of death by suicide of all industries in the United States, about four times higher than the general population. The health and safety of our workers is the primary goal in the mechanical construction and service industry.

Together, the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) and the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) are rethinking the way we approach mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Our joint investment to spread awareness and normalize conversations around this issue could be one of the biggest opportunities to impact safety and health across our entire industry today. Mental health has a personal impact on so many people; everyone has a story; everyone is dealing with things on and off the jobsite.

The Department of Health and Human Services launched the easy to use 988 suicide and crisis lifelines to provide an outlet to those who are in need. This was our chance to develop a purposeful plan to spread our message of hope and support.

When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

The cause of mental health issues and death by suicide is not singular, and neither is the solution.

Today we are launching a series of new resources, available to UA members and MCAA contractors, including:

1. A Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention Video
2. UA/MCAA branded 988 Chips & Hard Hat Stickers highlighting the 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
  - MCAA members can order items by filling out this form. Those with questions can contact Raffi Elchemmas ([raffi@mcaa.org](mailto:raffi@mcaa.org)).
  - UA members can order right from the UA's webstore. Those with questions can reach out to Nicole Jeup ([nicolej@uanet.org](mailto:nicolej@uanet.org)).
3. Mental Health Toolbox Talks
  - This series of toolbox talks are easy to reference, quick to use, and a great way to start the conversation on mental health awareness and suicide prevention in construction at your company.

#### 4. Additional Resources

- UA members and MCAA members can access several posters, flyers, and other resources through these sites:
  - Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP)  
[preventconstructionsuicide.com](http://preventconstructionsuicide.com)
  - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)  
[osha.gov/workplace-stress](http://osha.gov/workplace-stress)
  - **988 Hotline**  
[988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)

We have an opportunity to improve safety and health for all construction and service workers across all our jobsites and workplaces. Please help us promote mental health awareness and the #988 helpline.

This is our moment to make a difference.

Sincerely,



Robert Beck  
MCAA President



Mark McManus  
UA General President