



# CFMA VoS Chapter News

August 2019

## *August...the "Dog Days of Summer" are here....but September is right around the corner!!*

*By David James, CPA, CCIFP*

And September is a time when our kids will be back in school, summer vacations will be but memories and paying off the charge cards, and temperatures will start getting survivable! But more importantly to all CFMA members, and our companies . . . September is Suicide Prevention Month. Construction being the industry with the highest rate of suicide death among our workforce demands that we, as an industry, pay attention and work towards reducing these numbers thru awareness, education, resources and integration into our workplace. September affords us a theme, and thus an opportunity to talk it up and either begin or continue the dialogue in our companies! How, you ask? As noted in the July article "Elvis is Alive . . .", the CIASP has developed a 3 level approach to integration of suicide prevention into your company. To explore these levels, click [HERE](#).

If your company is new to suicide prevention, look at the level 1 ideas and decide which might play well with your company culture during September. Perhaps a candid discussion with leadership, or a lunch and learn for your employees, or posting some of the suicide prevention posters or coordinating with your EAP for communication pieces during the month. No EAP? Maybe this is the month to research and contract with an EAP who can provide resources to your employees to support mental wellness as well as a multitude of other challenges they face.

If your company is more experienced with this issue, and the dialogue has begun and resources are available to employees, look at level 1 for ideas, and levels 2 and 3 as well. Consider initiating training in September for supervisors and other front line management, or study with leadership the integration needs analysis and checklist, or include a toolbox talk on suicide prevention or schedule mental health screenings during September.

For additional resources, go to the CFMA website on suicide prevention: [www.preventconstructionsuicide.com](http://www.preventconstructionsuicide.com)

Remember, as the Construction Financial Manager of your company, you are in a unique position to connect and influence leadership, safety and human resources to address and promote mental wellness. Take advantage of this linkage, and encourage the dialogue. Or as a CFMA Associate member, you can bring "value added" to your clients by talking about this issue and helping them to connect with resources. Showing you care for their company and workers offers "special" value to your clients beyond your professional expertise!!

**So with September just around the corner, you have a few weeks to plan, talk among leadership and develop a "September - Suicide Prevention Month" plan!! If you would like to kick around some ideas, feel free to reach out!!!**