

Press Release

After 2 Worker Deaths in 2005, Ohio-Based Sunesis Construction Issued Two (2) Citations by Indiana OSHA and Fined \$7,000

Contractor Caught on Video Not Using Trench Boxes in Indiana

Indianapolis, January 6, 2009: On December 8, 2008, Sunesis Construction Company, Inc., an Ohio-based contractor who has performed over \$40 million dollars worth of construction work in Indiana in recent years, was issued two (2) “serious” citations and fined \$7,000 in penalties by the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA).

The citations and penalties were the result of Sunesis being caught on video in September 2008 not using trench boxes at a Connersville, Indiana construction job site. The resulting video footage was posted to the *You Tube* channel of the *Indiana Construction Information Network* (www.youtube.com/indianaconstruction).

Despite the company’s troubled history with safety issues, Sunesis is still being allowed to bid INDOT/Major Moves work. The question being asked by many in the Indiana construction industry is why is a company that has a poor record of worker safety, two worker deaths, and two current serious citations with IOSHA, still being allowed to bid and win millions in state-funded projects.

Sunesis experienced two (2) unrelated worker deaths in 2005. Both of the deaths involved safety issues and Sunesis was subsequently fined over \$ 100,000 by the federal OHSA.

The two worker fatalities in 2005 and Sunesis’ safety and health record have been highlighted in at least three (3) recent reports.

- April 2008, Sunesis’ safety issues were highlighted in a report by the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee named, *“Discounting Death: OSHA’s Failure to Punish Safety Violations that Kill Workers.”*

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- July 2008, Sunesis was the subject of an extensive report by Indiana Construction Information Network (INCIN) titled, *“Major Mistakes: Preliminary Report on Sunesis Construction Company, Inc. in the Indiana Construction Market.”*
- April 2006, Sunesis was named in the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (NCOSH) Workplace Health and Safety *“Dirty Dozen”* report as an employer with a history of severe health and safety violations.

All of the Sunesis reports may be viewed and downloaded at the INCIN web site: www.incin.org. Sunesis has filed a notice of contest to the citations.

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