Architect of the Capitol
Office of Inspector General

Evaluation of the Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety

OIG-AUD-2026-02

September 23, 2026

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

NDAA 5274 NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 5274 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Pub. L. No. 117-263, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is required to notify non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or business entities (BEs) when they are specifically identified in a published audit, evaluation, inspection, or other non-investigative report. The purpose of the notification is to afford the specifically identified NGO or BE an opportunity to submit a written response to AOC OIG about each such reference to the NGO or BE in the published report. Any such NGO or BE has 30 days from the date of publication to provide its written response. View NDAA Section 5274 in its entirety. If the NGO or BE provides comments within the 30-day period, the AOC OIG may re-publish the Final Report with their written response as an appendix.

AOC OIG directly notifies any NGOs or BEs specifically identified in a published audit, evaluation, inspection, or other non-investigative report prepared by or on behalf of AOC OIG, whenever such entity is entitled to notice and opportunity to respond and direct notice can be accomplished through reasonable due diligence. Where a non-governmental organization or business entity not provided direct notice seeks to provide a written response to AOC OIG pursuant to Section 5274, such a response may be submitted by email to the Assistant Inspector General of the team that produced the report.

MISSION

Provide independent, objective oversight that promotes integrity and accountability, improves performance, and safeguards the AOC's stewardship of historic facilities, infrastructure, and resources in service to Congress, the Supreme Court, and the American people.

VISION

Be a trusted and independent oversight partner that drives accountability, safeguards AOC resources, and supports the enduring institutions that represent American democracy.

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

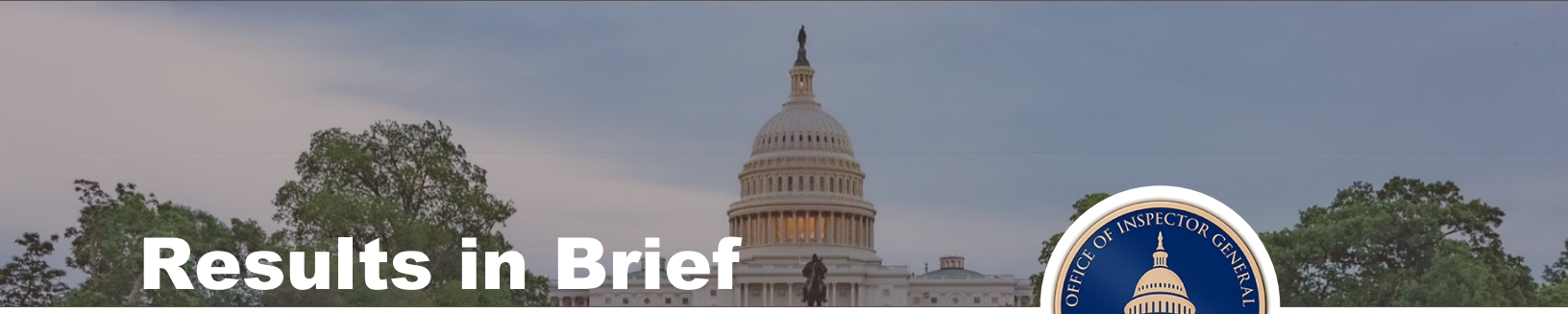
Confidential Toll-Free Hotline: 877.489.8583

OIG Website & Hotline Report: https://aocoig.gov/

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/aocoig

Email: oig@aoc.gov

Visit: Fairchild Building, Suite 518, 499 South Capitol Street, SW, Washington, DC 20515



Results in Brief

Evaluation of the Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

OBJECTIVE

Construction audits and evaluations are included in the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) oversight plan. As such, the AOC OIG contracted Sikich CPA, LLC (Sikich) to conduct an evaluation of the CHOBr Project's Safety. The evaluation objective was to review and assess the increased safety incidents on the CHOBr Project. Specifically, we evaluated the causal factors of the escalated safety incidents that led to the CHOBr Project's Suspension of Work Notification on August 14, 2025.

EVALUATION RESULTS

We reviewed and assessed the safety incidents that led to the suspension of construction work on the CHOBr Project and determined that the corrective actions proposed by the Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) and approved by the AOC Executive Contracting Officer (CO) prior to lifting the Suspension of Work were consistent with the project's safety requirements as outlined in the contract, project specifications, and applicable federal laws and regulations.

To achieve the objective of our evaluation, we reviewed the CHOBr Project's safety requirements and safety plan, as well as obtained and reviewed the documentation of the safety incidents cited in the August 14, 2025, Suspension of Work Notification.

Based on our review of the causal factors underlying the increased safety incidents during Phase 4 of the CHOBr Project — along with project specifications, the CMc's responses to AOC concerns, and available incident reports — we determined that the AOC's decision to suspend work was consistent with its contractual authority and appropriately aimed at ensuring the project site did not pose an immediate danger to workers, Members of Congress, federal staff, visitors, property, or the environment.

We also found that the CMc's corrective actions aligned with safety practices commonly implemented across the construction industry. Although the project experienced an increase in safety incidents, we did not identify evidence of extensive or systemic safety issues.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS

The AOC provided comments on August 31, 2026, see **Appendix D**.

Inspector General

DATE: September 23, 2026

TO: Thomas E. Austin, PE, CCM, PMP
Architect of the Capitol

FROM: Luiz A. Santos, CFE, PMP
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety (OIG-AUD-2026-02)

Please see the attached final report for Sikich's evaluation of the AOC's Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety, which we announced on January 27, 2026.

Our evaluation concluded that the AOC's decision to suspend work was consistent with its contractual authority and appropriately aimed at ensuring the project site did not pose an immediate danger to workers, Members of Congress, federal staff, visitors, property, or the environment. In response to our official draft report (**Appendix D**), management concurred with the OIG's observations.

We appreciate the courtesies extended to our staff during the evaluation. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202.593.1948 or Luiz.Santos@aoc.gov. Alternatively, your staff may contact Peter Sima-Eichler, Deputy Inspector General, at 202.355.5948 or Peter.Sima-Eichler@aoc.gov or Erica Boyden, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, at 202.215.3395 or Erica.Boyden@aoc.gov.

Distribution List:

- Joseph Campbell, Deputy Architect
- Patrick Briggs, Chief of Staff
- Danna Planas Ocasio, Deputy Chief of Staff
- Kirk Nelson, Chief Engineer
- Christopher Thompson Jr, Deputy Chief Engineer
- Joseph DiPietro Chief of Operations
- Joseph Yates, Executive Director of Facilities Operations, House Office Buildings
- Angela Freeman, General Counsel
- Stephen Titus, Project Executive

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESULTS IN BRIEF ..... **I**
- Objective i
- Evaluation Results i
- Management Comments i

INTRODUCTION **1**
- Objective 1
- Background 1
- CHOBr Project Safety Procedures 2
- Suspension of Work 3
- Criteria 4

EVALUATION RESULTS **6**
- Actions to Address Suspension of Work 6
- Conclusion 7

APPENDIX A **9**
- Scope and Methodology 9
- Use of Computer-Processed Data 9

APPENDIX B **10**
- Phase 4 Safety Incidents 10

APPENDIX C **12**
- Evaluation Announcement Memorandum 12

APPENDIX D **13**
- Management Comments 13

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS **14**

INTRODUCTION

Objective

This report presents the results of Sikich's Evaluation of the AOC's Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety. The objective of this evaluation was to review and assess the increased safety incidents on the CHOBr Project. Specifically, we evaluated the causal factors of the escalated safety incidents that led to the CHOBr Project's Suspension of Work Notification on August 14, 2025. To accomplish the evaluation objective, we reviewed the CHOBr Project's safety requirements and safety plan. We also obtained and reviewed documentation for the safety incidents cited in the August 14, 2025, Suspension of Work Notification.

We conducted this evaluation in Washington, D.C. from January 2026 through June 2026, in accordance with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency[1] *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, December 2020, henceforth referred to as the Blue Book. These standards require that we sufficiently and appropriately support evaluation findings and provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our evaluation objective.

Background

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) awarded a Guaranteed Maximum Price contract to the Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) for the CHOBr Project on October 25, 2012. As the general contractor, the CMc provides a wide range of design and construction services for staged construction, phases 0 through 5, addressing the four wings of the CHOBr and the courtyard. The CMc also holds all construction subcontracts and responsibility for supervising and coordinating the work, including all means, methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures used to achieve construction milestones.

The CMc contract for the CHOBr Project assigns the CMc full responsibility for project safety, including developing and implementing the Site-Specific Safety and Health Plan (safety plan). CMc staff must follow the safety plan throughout construction and coordinate with other agency (i.e., Federal, State, and local) officials responsible for enforcing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. In March 2024, the CMc prepared the *CHOBr Phase 4 Site-Specific Safety and Health Plan*.

Additionally, the AOC awarded a firm-fixed price contract to the Construction Manager as Agent (CMa) for the CHOBr Project on October 5, 2012. The CMa is required to provide oversight of

[1] CIGIE is an independent entity established within the executive branch to address integrity, economy and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies and aid in the establishment of a professional, well-trained and highly skilled workforce in the Offices of Inspectors General. Retrieved from CIGIE website: https://www.ignet.gov/ | Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

the CMc's safety plan, to include monitoring the CMc's compliance throughout the duration of the project, and to assist the AOC with the preparation of incident reports, as required.

CHOBr Project Safety Procedures

Contract clause AOC 52.242-3 authorizes the Contracting Officer (CO) to suspend, delay, or interrupt all or part of the work for any period of time deemed necessary. In addition, the CHOBr Project specifications[2] empower any AOC employee to halt work upon identifying a condition they believe poses an immediate danger to the life or health of workers, Members of Congress, federal staff, visitors, property, or the environment. Work stopped by the CO or an AOC employee may resume only after the safety issue has been formally documented and resolved to the satisfaction of the AOC Safety Specialist or the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

Safety occurrences for the CHOBr Project are classified into two categories: (1) Safety Observations and (2) Incidents and Near Misses.

Safety Observations

Safety observations refer to minor safety concerns, such as daisy-chaining extension cords (plugging an extension cord into another extension cord) or using ladders with expired certifications. These observations are typically identified on site by AOC, CMa, or CMc personnel and logged into eBuilder, the CHOBr Project's official system of record. This process helps ensure CMc awareness, accountability, and the ability to track recurring issues across the project. As of May 6, 2026, the CHOBr Project team made a total of 9,362 safety observations during Phase 4 of the CHOBr Project. eBuilder contained more than 40,000 documents, primarily photos, documenting those safety observations made by AOC, CMa, and CMc staff during Phase 4.

Incidents and Near Misses

All incidents involving bodily injury, property damage, or near-misses[3] are recorded in eBuilder as "safety incidents." These safety incidents are typically first identified in the field by CMc or subcontractor personnel. Once identified, the CMc must notify the AOC COR and CMa and submit to them a preliminary incident report within two hours of the safety incident, as required by project specifications. Recording the safety incident in eBuilder will automatically initiate an incident report.

The CMc investigates each safety incident by conducting interviews and performing a root-cause analysis to determine the cause. The CMc then develops a corrective action plan to complete the incident report. The completed incident report and supporting documentation

[2] AOC. 2021. "Project Manual – Volume 1 for Cannon House Office Building Renewal."

[3] The safety plan describes near misses as incidents that could have had serious outcomes.

are then submitted to the AOC. AOC's Safety and Code Compliance (SCC) team reviews the report for completeness, including the "five whys,"[4] assesses the root-cause analysis, and, when necessary, requests additional information through eBuilder.

This review process continues iteratively between the CMc and AOC SCC until the project team has fully identified the contributing factors, direct and indirect causes, and the corrective actions required to prevent recurrence. Throughout this process, the CHOBr Project team provides regular status updates to the AOC Office of the Chief Engineer.

Additionally, the CHOBr Project's Safety Incident Notification Procedure[5] requires that safety incidents be reported to the U.S. Capitol Police, CMa, House Office Buildings, and AOC personnel, as appropriate. When an incident occurs, CMc or subcontractor personnel who witnessed it must notify the CMc supervisor on duty. If emergency assistance is needed, the CMc supervisor contacts the U.S. Capitol Police, who coordinates with District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department for emergency response units. If no emergency assistance is required, the CMc supervisor notifies the AOC COR for the CMc contract, as well as the CMa and House Office Buildings. As noted, the CMc's supervisor must notify the AOC COR and CMa within two hours of the incident. The AOC COR then alerts leadership of the Office of the Chief Engineer, SCC, and the AOC CO by phone and sends a confirmation email to House Office Buildings, Planning and Project Management (PPM), Cannon Communications,[6] SCC, the AOC CO, and CMa.

Suspension of Work

On August 14, 2025, AOC's Executive CO issued a Suspension of Work Notification to notify the CMc that it was exercising its right[7] to suspend all construction work on the CHOBr Project due to an increase in safety incidents on the project. The notification stated that the suspension would remain in effect until the CMc submitted a comprehensive recovery plan and responded to each of the 13 safety incidents that occurred between March 21, 2025, and August 13, 2025. **Table 1** summarizes the safety incidents cited in the notification.

[4] The American Society for Quality defines "five whys" as a technique used to push a team investigating a problem to delve into more details of the root causes.
[5] AOC. 2021. "Project Manual – Volume 1 for Cannon House Office Building Renewal."
[6] Email group for the Cannon project.
[7] Contract clause AOC 52.242-3, *Suspension of Work*.

Table 1: Thirteen Safety Incidents Cited in the Suspension of Work Notification

No.	Incident Date	Incident Report Number[8]	Safety Incident Description
1	3/21/2025	9	Hand laceration due to improper work technique, failure to use guards and inadequate guarding of hazards
2	4/11/2025	10	Scaffold fell off truck during loading
3	4/14/2025	11	Worker slipped on wet surface
4	4/15/2025	12	Falling rebar from suspended load on tower crane
5	5/13/2025	13	Fire alarm triggered due to subcontractor welding in basement
6	6/26/2025	14	Fire incident caused by hot material finding its way through a hole into a cart containing combustible material
7	7/08/2025	16	Excavator struck a 13.2 kilovolt cable
8	7/22/2025	18	Worker skin contacted hot rubber
9	7/22/2025	20	Workers present on fall side of truck during loading of scaffolding
10	7/30/2025	19	Post-tensioning cable cut
11	8/08/2025	22	Scissor lift exceeded the allowable load capacity of the elevator
12	8/13/2025	N/A[9]	AOC identified misuse of fall projection in the Courtyard
13	8/13/2025	21	Melter dropped from the crane in the courtyard due to improper rigging

Source: Sikich compilation of safety incidents cited in AOC's notification dated August 14, 2025.

The CMc addressed the concerns raised in AOC's Suspension of Work Notification within 7 calendar days. The AOC Executive CO lifted the suspension on the CHOBr Project on August 21, 2025, and work resumed.

Criteria

To evaluate whether the CHOBr Project's safety suspension and the resuming of work complied with the contract requirements and/or specifications and applicable federal laws and regulations, we considered relevant criteria from the following sources:

- CHOBr Phase 4, Project Site Safety & Health Plan – March 2024

[8] Incident reports are numbered in the sequence incident reports are created in e-Builder, whereas Table 1 is sorted by the date incidents occurred. Skipped report numbers are due to voided or duplicated incident reports.
[9] During conversations with the CHOBr Project personnel, we learned that the incident was addressed before it could be logged into e-Builder; therefore, the incident was not assigned an incident number.

- CHOBr Phase 4, Procurement and Contracting Requirements – Volumes 1 to 5, December 17, 2021
- Contract No. AOC13C2002, awarded to the CMc for the CHOBr Project (issued October 25, 2012)
- 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910 Occupational Safety and Health Standards

EVALUATION RESULTS

We reviewed and assessed the safety incidents that led to the suspension of construction work on the CHOBr Project and determined that the corrective actions proposed by the CMc and approved by the AOC Executive CO prior to lifting the Suspension of Work were consistent with the project's safety requirements as outlined in the contract, project specifications, and applicable federal laws and regulations. Our review included the August 14, 2025, Suspension of Work Notification; documentation supporting each cited safety incident; and the CMc's response and corrective actions. Based on this assessment, we found that the CMc's actions were consistent with safety practices typically implemented for large construction projects.

Actions to Address Suspension of Work

AOC's notice to suspend work on the CHOBr Project identified a total of 13 safety incidents that occurred between March 21, 2025, and August 13, 2025. During our interview of AOC personnel, we found that the notification represented a series of incidents that occurred in close succession and remained unresolved for a prolonged period. After the melter drop incident on August 13, 2025, the AOC made the decision to suspend work to prevent additional or severe safety incidents from occurring in the future.

The CMc responded to AOC's notification on August 15, 2025, concurring with AOC's concerns regarding the frequency and severity of safety incidents on the project. The CMc acknowledged that long-term construction projects, including those requiring sustained night shifts, often lead to fatigue and complacency, increasing the risk of human error among laborers. The CMc also explained that since the project was in Phase 4, the growing number of occupied spaces within the CHOBr building created accessibility limitations, which raised potential safety blind spots. To address AOC's concerns, the CMc:

- Replaced the existing safety managers with more experienced safety managers who had extensive experience on large government projects and operating in occupied and partially occupied buildings.
- Increased the involvement of the CMc's Regional Safety Director and the Divisional Safety Manager.
- Held mandatory "Finish Strong" meetings to review safety incidents and revised protocols with both field and office management from all subcontractors.
- Held a full project worker safety stand down to discuss safety incidents, emphasize job safety, and review the updated project protocols.
- Held team learning sessions to discuss safety concerns such as confined spaces, personal protective equipment, permits, equipment inspection, and equipment movement and elevator capacities.
- Implemented a dig permit process to review existing conditions to determine the appropriate method of demolition or excavation adjacent to existing elements and to ensure the crew understood both the hazards and controls.

- Indicated adherence to rigorous day and night shift protocols, including in-person hand-offs for high-risk operations followed by confirmation emails, night shift priority emails, and CMc/CMa site walks at the beginning and end of night shifts.
- Held daily reviews for high-risk activities such as work involving high heat, open flames, and flame or dust generating equipment, including review of hot work permits, occupant impacts, and hazards of high-risk activities.

In addition to the CMc's corrective actions, the AOC required the CMc to increase home-office oversight by assigning a different member of its leadership team to conduct a site walk every Friday and meet with the CMc's CHOBr team.

We obtained and reviewed reports for all safety incidents that occurred during Phase 4 of the CHOBr Project. As of May 6, 2026, a total of 33 safety incidents had occurred. Of these, 5 incidents[10] took place before the 13 incidents cited in the Suspension of Work Notification, occurring between November 20, 2024, and August 13, 2025 (266 days). The remaining 15 incidents — most of which were near-misses — occurred after construction work resumed, between August 25, 2025, and May 1, 2026 (249 days). Based on the incident reports reviewed, we found that 10 of the 15 post-suspension incidents (66 percent) resulted from workers using improper procedures or human error, rather than issues indicating a systemic failure of the safety plan. Appendix B lists all 33 safety incidents documented as of May 6, 2026, for Phase 4 of the CHOBr Project.

Due to the inherent risks associated with construction work, complete elimination of safety incidents is not feasible. However, the safety plan and the additional actions taken by the CMc can help prevent future incidents or mitigate their severity. We found that the Recordable Incident Rate (RIR) — the number of injury and illness cases per 100 full-time workers — reported by the CMc for Phase 4 of the CHOBr Project was approximately 63 percent lower than available national construction-industry statistics. According to 2024 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the construction industry's average RIR was 2.2, whereas the CHOBr Project reported an average RIR of 0.83.[11] An RIR below the industry average is generally considered a positive indicator of safety performance.

Conclusion

Based on our review of the causal factors underlying the increased safety incidents during Phase 4 of the CHOBr Project — along with project specifications, the CMc's responses to AOC concerns, and available incident reports — we determined that AOC's decision to suspend work was consistent with its contractual authority and appropriately aimed at ensuring the project site did not pose an immediate danger to workers, Members of Congress, federal staff, visitors, property, or the environment.

We also found that the CMc's corrective actions aligned with safety practices commonly implemented across the construction industry. Although the project experienced an increase in

[10] The incidents included three near misses, an incident that resulted in a property repair, and a non-recordable injury.
[11] CMc's Suspension of Work Notification Response and Safety Leadership Plan dated August 15, 2025.

safety incidents, this did not indicate extensive or systemic safety issues. This aligns with the CMc's reported pre-suspension RIR average of 0.83, which is below the industry average of 2.2. Finally, while 15 incident reports were filed after construction resumed (see Appendix B), 10 of those incidents (66 percent) were near misses caused by improper procedures or human error, rather than indicators of systemic failure of the project's safety plan.

Sikich CPA LLC

September 23, 2026

APPENDIX A

Scope and Methodology

The scope of our evaluation was the causal factors of the escalated safety incidents that led to the CHOBr Project's suspension of work on August 14, 2025. We conducted this evaluation in Washington, D.C., from January 2026 through June 2026, in accordance with the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book). Those standards require that we plan and perform the evaluation to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our evaluation objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for the findings and conclusions based on our evaluation objectives.

To evaluate the causal factors of the safety incidents cited in the Suspension of Work Notification, we obtained a copy of the suspension notification, associated incident reports, and all Phase 4 incident reports submitted as of May 6, 2026. Additionally, we reviewed the CHOBr safety plan and safety contractual requirements. During our evaluation, we held a meeting with the AOC to obtain a better understanding of the policies and procedures used to ensure safety on the CHOBr Project. We reviewed the mechanism used to track and resolve safety incidents to determine whether it was consistent with policies and procedures for the CHOBr Project.

We reviewed the CMc response to AOC's Suspension of Work Notification to determine whether the actions taken by the CMc and accepted by the AOC addressed the underlying causes of the safety incidents and near misses. We worked with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for construction safety who reviewed the contract, project specifications, incident reports for the incidents cited in AOC's notification to suspend work, and the CMc's response to those incidents. We relied on our review of project records and the SME's conclusion that the safety plan prepared by the CMc to address AOC's concerns was consistent with safety plans implemented in the construction industry. Additionally, we relied on the SME's conclusion that the CMc's average RIR of 0.83 was substantially less than the construction industry average RIR of 2.2.

Use of Computer-Processed Data

We did not use computer-processed data to perform this evaluation.

APPENDIX B

Phase 4 Safety Incidents

No.	Incident Date	Incident Report Number[12]	Incident Type	Safety Incident Description
1	11/20/2024	1	near miss	Subcontractor grinding a piece of steel without a fire extinguisher, fire watch, or proper work permit
2	1/02/2025	2	near miss	A gust of wind caught a metal panel and made it fall from the roof to the street
3	1/21/2025	3	near miss	Unsecured walking surface resulted in CMa inspector tripping and falling on the floor
4	1/31/2025	7	property damage	Property damage due to water infiltration
5	2/21/2025	8	non-recordable injury	Worker hard hat hit by disconnected chain
6	3/21/2025	9	injury	Hand laceration due to improper work technique, failure to use guards, and inadequate guarding of hazards
7	4/11/2025	10	near miss	Scaffold fell off truck during loading
8	4/14/2025	11	injury	Worker slipped on wet surface
9	4/15/2025	12	near miss	Falling rebar from suspended load on tower crane
10	5/13/2025	13	near miss	Fire alarm triggered due to subcontractor welding in basement
11	6/26/2025	14	near miss	Fire incident caused by hot material finding its way through a hole into a cart containing combustible material
12	7/07/2025	15	non-recordable injury	Personal medical episode
13	7/08/2025	16	property damage	Excavator struck a 13.2 kilovolt cable
14	7/22/2025	18	injury	Worker skin contacted hot rubber
15	7/22/2025	20	near miss	Workers present on fall side of truck during loading of scaffolding
16	7/30/2025	19	near miss	Post-tensioning cable cut
17	8/08/2025	22	near miss	Scissor lift exceeded the allowable load capacity of the elevator
18	8/13/2025	N/A[13]	N/A	AOC identified misuse of fall protection in the Courtyard

[12] Skipped report numbers are due to voided or duplicated incident reports.

[13] During conversations with the CHOBr Project personnel, we learned that the incident was addressed before it could be logged into e-Builder; therefore, the incident was not assigned an incident number.

No.	Incident Date	Incident Report Number[12]	Incident Type	Safety Incident Description
19	8/13/2025	21	near miss	Melter dropped from the crane in the courtyard due to improper rigging
20	8/25/2025	23	near miss	Pedestrians bypassed temporary traffic controls while delivery truck was getting ready to back up
21	8/28/2025	24	property damage	Asphalt primer leaked from asphalt primer sprayer during transport from storage to courtyard
22	9/05/2025	25	property damage	Hydraulic fluid leaked from an excavator
23	11/03/2025	26	injury	Worker lost control of razor knife resulting in a lacerated thigh
24	11/12/2025	28	near miss	Worker fell into a shaft after losing balance
25	11/20/2025	29	near miss	Load on a forklift came in contact with a fence
26	12/05/2025	31	near miss	Worker slipped on an icy spot in the courtyard
27	12/12/2025	32	near miss	Temporary plywood door fell over and struck a worker's shoulder
28	12/17/2025	33	near miss	Improper procedure to move melter
29	12/30/2025	35	near miss	Glass fell out of crate during relocation
30	2/11/2026	37	near miss	Gas leaked from a generator during relocation
31	3/25/2026	38	property damage	Hydraulic fluid spraying from a Bobcat sprayed onto Cannon Wall
32	4/16/2026	42	near miss	Worker entered confined space without following proper procedure
33	5/01/2026	43	near miss	Unsecured bucket on a skid steer broke rear windshield

Source: Sikich compilation of Phase 4 safety incidents as of May 6, 2026.

Note. Blue font is used for the thirteen safety incidents cited in the suspension of work notification.

APPENDIX C

Evaluation Announcement Memorandum

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Office of Inspector General
Fairchild Bldg.
499 S. Capitol St., SW, Suite 518
Washington, D.C. 20515
202.593.1948

www.aoc.gov

United States Government

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2026

TO: Thomas E. Austin, PE, CCM, PMP
Architect of the Capitol

FROM: Luiz A. Santos, CFE, PMP
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Announcement Memorandum for the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) Evaluation of the Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety (2026-AUD-003-E)

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Office of Inspector General (OIG), in collaboration with the independent audit and accounting firm Sikich CPA LLC, is initiating an evaluation of the CHOBr Project's Safety. The objective of the evaluation is to review and assess increased safety incidents on the CHOBr Project. Specifically, we will evaluate the causal factors of the escalated safety incidents that lead to the CHOBr Project's suspension of work on August 14, 2025.

We will contact your office to set up an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202.593.1948 or Luiz.Santos@aoc.gov. Alternatively, your staff may contact Erica Boyden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at 202.215.3395 or Erica.Boyden@aoc.gov.

Distribution List:

Joseph Campbell, Deputy Architect
Patrick Briggs, Chief of Staff
Danna Planas Ocasio, Deputy Chief of Staff
Kirk Nelson, Chief Engineer
Tom Costello, Deputy Chief Engineer
Joseph DiPietro, Chief of Operations
Joseph Yates, Executive Director of Facilities Operations, House Office Buildings
Angela Freeman, General Counsel
Stephen Titus, Project Executive

APPENDIX D

Management Comments

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Architect of the Capitol
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16
Washington, DC 20515
202.228.1793

www.aoc.gov

United States Government

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2026

TO: Luiz Santos, CFE, PMP
Inspector General

FROM: Joseph Campbell, PE
Deputy Architect of the Capitol

SUBJECT: **Evaluation of Cannon House Office Building Renewal (CHOBr) Project's Safety (2026-AUD-003-E)**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Evaluation of Safety on CHOBr, specifically as it relates to the events that led to the Project shutdown in August of 2025. The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is pleased the OIG determined that AOC's decision to suspend work was consistent with its contractual authority and appropriately aimed at ensuring the project site did not pose an immediate danger to workers, Members of Congress, federal staff, visitors, property, or the environment.

Doc. No. 260824-18-01

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AOC	Architect of the Capitol
CHOBr	Cannon House Office Building Renewal
CMa	Construction Manager as Agent
CMc	Construction Manager as Constructor
CO	Contracting Officer
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PPM	Planning and Project Management
RIR	Recordable Incident Rate
SCC	Safety and Code Compliance
SME	Subject Matter Expert