

General Construction Site Safety

Because of the very nature of the work, construction workers face a higher risk of accidents and injury than the normal industrial employee. The personal protective equipment worn to reduce lead exposures can in turn increase accident potential by:

- Reducing dexterity
- Narrowing the field of vision and clarity
- Reducing communication and hearing capabilities
- Increasing heat stress

What is an accident?

An accident is an undesirable, unplanned event resulting in personal physical harm or damage to property. An accident may be the result of an unsafe act, such as standing up in a small boat or not wearing a respirator properly, or the result of an unsafe condition, such as a leaking boat or dangerous atmosphere. These situations can be related, since an individual's unsafe act can result in an unsafe condition for someone else.



Preventing Accidents

The two main approaches to reducing or preventing accidents are: eliminating unsafe conditions and reducing unsafe acts.

Eliminate Unsafe Conditions

People must be aware of conditions that can contribute to an accident and then work to remove exposure to these conditions. Examples are enclosing live electrical circuits or providing workers with the proper protective equipment. Of course, it is difficult to eliminate all unsafe conditions, and it's even more difficult to predict or anticipate where such conditions may exist or develop on construction jobs involving lead.

Reduce Unsafe Acts

Each worker must make a conscious effort to work safely despite the hazardous conditions that may exist at any site. A high degree of safety awareness and train-

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ing must be maintained so that the safety factors involved in a job become an actual part of the job. By being conscious of the task you are performing, the environment in which it is being performed, as well as how you are going to actually perform the task, you will be capable of identifying potential hazards that will cause you to act in an unsafe manner.

General Safety

Safety is the condition of being secure from hurt, injury, or loss. Therefore, to be safe, you act in two ways, Proactively and Reactively. When you act proactively, you anticipate problems before they occur and take steps to make sure accidents don't happen. When you act reactively, you are responding to problems after they occur. Workers are best protected when they act proactively.

Learn More

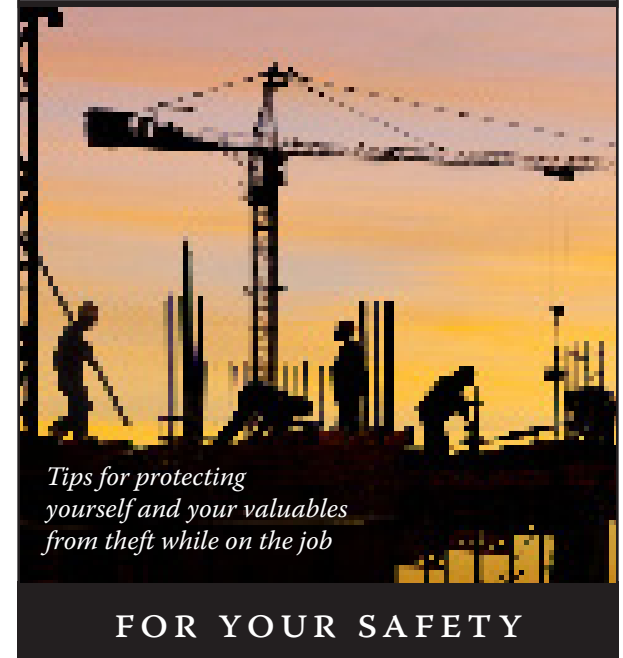
For more information on creating and maintaining a safe construction site environment, please see the materials available from the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center of the US Department of Transportation, available online at www.tfhr.gov/hnr20/bridge/model/general/general.htm.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Metropolitan Police Department
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Washington, DC 20001

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Construction Site Safety and Security



Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

Pay attention on the site.

The tools and materials in a construction job can be worth millions of dollars. Safeguarding these valuables will help keep costs down and reduce delays and headaches.

How important are your tools to a construction worker? How much will it cost to replace them if they get lost or stolen? Protect your tools from thieves who pose as construction workers on the site. Promoting safety on construction sites is the responsibility of the head foremen, workers, security, contractor, supervisors, architectural everyone has to take part. An important part of everyone's job is to be alert, use common sense, and prevent unnecessary accident on the work site.

Work site crimes can be broken down generally into two crimes against property and crimes against person. Most construction site theft occurs when criminals are given the opportunity to commit them. By taking away the opportunity to commit the crime before it occurs, the entire construction site benefits. Staff can pull together to reduce the risk and enhance the safety of the entire community.

Transporting Your Tools

- ◆ Install an anti-theft device on the steering wheel of your vehicle. In addition install and use alarm system on your vehicle.
- ◆ Do not leave valuables or tools in plain view.
- ◆ Never leave your vehicle running.
- ◆ Lock all doors of the vehicle.
- ◆ Close all of the vehicle's windows.
- ◆ Never start to load your vehicle with tools and you are ready to leave the area.

Tips for

Construction Workers

- ◆ Safeguard your tools in a metal tackle box secured with impervious locks.
- ◆ Never leave your tackle box unlocked.
- ◆ If at all possible keep your tackle boxes closed.
- ◆ Remember don't trust your co-worker to watch your expensive tools.
- ◆ Label your tools with an engraving pen or other permanent marking.
- ◆ Record all serial numbers of your tools.
- ◆ Report any suspicious person walking on the site to supervisor or site manager then contact the police.

Site Managers, Supervisors

Trailers

- ◆ Install an alarm system on all trailers assigned to your site.
- ◆ Install or purchase trailers with bars on every window.
- ◆ The door on the trailer should be durable and locked at all times.
- ◆ Install durable, unbreakable locks on the outside of the door.
- ◆ Leave lights on during the evening hours.
- ◆ Employ lock boxes at all times and chain these boxes to the floor.
- ◆ Computers and fax machines should be locked securely every evening before leaving the site.

Security

- ◆ A qualified security company should be put in place during the evening hours.
- ◆ Security should be in place by the time the trailer has been sent to the site and it becomes operable.
- ◆ The security company's main function is to make sure that the site remains intact.
- ◆ The grounds should be walked several times during the tour and reported on a log sheet.

Material

- ◆ Remove any old material from the site each night or before the end of the day.
- ◆ Material lying around on the ground may cause accidents and be an invitation to criminals.

Work site

- ◆ Secure the entrances to the worksite every evening. Keep the worksite well-lit.
- ◆ Secure all fences together.
- ◆ Use locks that are unable to be cut off.
- ◆ Secure all keys to equipment in a locked tackle box.
- ◆ Once the building has gained power, immediately begin to keep the floors illuminated at night.

