

Construction Safety

Construction is a high hazard occupation, and has the third highest rate of death by injury. Construction has lost more workers to traumatic injury and death than any other major industry. The leading cause of death among construction workers are falls from elevations, motor vehicle crashes, electrocution and being struck by a falling object.

We all need to be alert to the hazards to help reduce the injuries suffered by workers in the construction industry.

Height Safety:

Falls from height cause more fatal injuries in construction than any other. Height safety is a common problem and if not dealt with effectively usually results in serious if not fatal results. Harness-it can help most building owners, construction workers and site maintenance staff develop a fall protection program. If you have any issues relating to height safety give us a call. Often a simple answer to a question can reduce the risks enormously.

Vehicle Management:

Vehicle safety is high on the list for all safety personnel. New legislation places the onus of responsibility on the employer. Ignorance of the law is no defence. Employers are expected to have policies and procedures in place to train and monitor their staff.

Some recommendations we would make are:

Conduct thorough checks with regard to drivers' licenses and background.

Establish a written policy stating how you expect the vehicle to be driven, explain the required maintenance procedures and how users can highlight problems or concerns.

Ensure drivers comply with speed limits and road regulations at all times. You will also need to establish what regulations and/or traffic management systems are implemented on construction sites.

Implement schedules that will allow drivers to obey speed limits and limit their hours according to the various regulations. Do not allow drivers to operate machinery if they are tired or below par.

Ensure all employees in construction zones wear high visibility clothing.

Make sure barriers and signage is clear and well located for site access and roadside operations. Delegate specific instruction for the inspection of lighting signage and traffic control systems to a senior member of work groups.

Head Protection:

An old chestnut, head injury is still a major cause of serious injury within the construction industry. Every site manager will bow his head at the mention of hard hats. If you consider 24% of all injuries were from moving or falling objects, (according to HSE statistics 2001 / 2002), ensuring workers have adequate head protection is a major concern.

A Dangerous Job:

Although Construction isn't as glamorous a job say as a formula one driver, it still is one of the most dangerous occupations. This is because it covers many different aspects. Because of this diversity the construction industry has to be one of the most difficult to manage.

Construction sites consist of multiple work forces from different cultures and guided by companies with different expectations. It should therefore be accepted that all sub contractors should submit a 'permit to work' with safety instructions to the main contractor before beginning work. This would normally include COSHH information and the possible effects of tasks on other site users.



eSupport@Harness-it.net