



Train. Protect. Prevent.

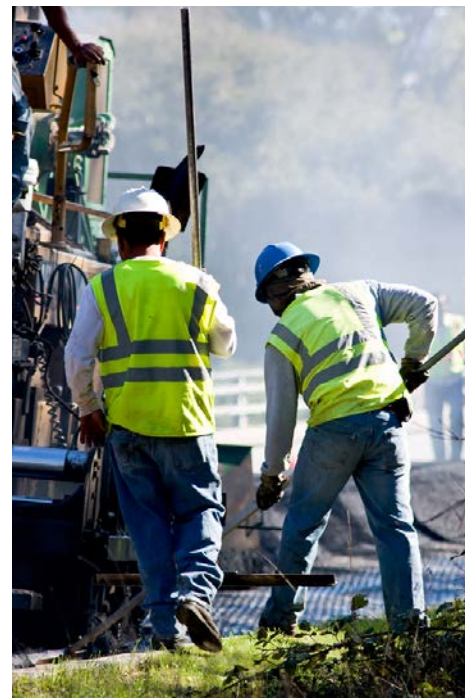
Construction Work Zone

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 20,000 workers are injured in highway and street construction accidents every year. Flaggers and workers on foot are the most vulnerable to being struck by vehicles or construction equipment. Workers who operate construction equipment or machines are more likely to be injured by collision or getting caught in a running machine. Highway, bridge, tunnel, and utility workers are also exposed to workplace hazards (falls, electrical hazards, vehicle turn overs, collision, etc.) as well as weather/environment conditions (low visibility, rain, etc.).

OSHA, DOT, DOL, NIOSH, and other agencies have developed laws and regulations to protect construction workers. Employers and employees should follow these fundamental rules and regulations for work zone safety. The safety of employees and the public must be the highest priority for any construction project from the beginning to the end. Safety training must be conducted according to OSHA requirements in order to ensure construction work zone safety.

Construction Safety Includes:

- Maintain a good public relationship.
- Guide vehicles for roadside safety.
- Inspect the work zone regularly.
 - The company must have a site safety inspection program.
 - Consider that each work zone and project is different.
- Wear high visibility clothing.
- Consider all potential hazards.
- All employees must know the entrances and exits to and from the work zone.
- Communicate about signals to be used before your shift.
- Do not stand under suspended equipment such as buckets or arms.
- All vehicles must have adequate size chocks.
- Always use seat belts.
- Wear proper PPE when required.
- Machine operators must inspect equipment.
 - This includes making sure they can maintain visual contact with all on foot workers at the work area.



Flaggers must:

- Understand the traffic flow and work zone set up.
- Ensure they have a good sight line or two-way communication with each other.
- Be familiar with the work area.
- This includes layout, equipment location, etc.
- Always have a competent person on the site who can identify hazards at the work zone.

Start each workday with a safety meeting and make sure all personnel at the job site are properly trained. Stay hydrated when working on construction sites.

Work Site Review: Hazards/Safety Suggestions

Company Name: _____ Work Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Employee Signatures: (continue on back of sheet if necessary)

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness)

Manager/Supervisor's Signature: _____

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Fire Extinguishers

A fire extinguisher is a device used in emergency situations to control or extinguish small fires. It works by discharging a jet of water, foam, gas, or other material to extinguish the fire. All extinguishers at buildings and workplaces are required to be serviced and inspected annually. Stored pressure fire extinguishers are the most frequently used type. They should be used according to fire classes A, B, C, D. The user must be trained to use an extinguisher properly.

- Class A is used to extinguish wood, trash, clothes and paper.
- Class B is for oil, gasoline, and other flammable liquids.
- Class C is used for electricity and electronics.
- Class D is used to extinguish combustible metals.

To choose the right class and size fire extinguisher you must identify the materials that could catch fire at your workplace. The extinguisher must be located in a place that is easy to reach with visible signs showing the location and operation instructions on or near the extinguisher. If mounted, the wall or column must be identified with a red band 8 feet above the extinguisher. It should never be placed in a location where it could be damaged. The physical ability of the user should match the weight of the extinguisher. OSHA requires a visual inspection of extinguishers every month. Record keeping is not required for monthly inspections, but maintenance and yearly inspections should be recorded.



Fire Extinguisher Safety:

- All employees who may use a fire extinguisher must be trained accordingly:
- Location
- Classes of fire
- Types of extinguishers Health and safety hazards Sounding alarms
- PPE
- When and how to use the extinguisher
- Employees should practice how to use and recharge extinguishers as well as how to effectively respond to fires.
- All extinguishers must:
- Have an attached durable tag (Date of inspection, name of servicing company, signature of inspector). Be well supported with solid hangers.
- Be easily accessible.
- Have clear operating instructions.
- Serial numbers, type, location, date of inspections/test, and date of next inspection must be recorded.
- Inspectors must make sure the extinguisher is in good working condition, it is not damaged, the ring pin is in place, and the seal is intact.
- For homes, it is best to have a multipurpose extinguisher.

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Hazard Communication and OSHA

By: Paul Taulbee

IMPORTANT! OSHA Standard 1926.59 The requirements applicable to construction work under this section are identical to those set forth at 1910.1200. All 1910 General Industry standards referenced in this article are also applicable to the construction industry.

HCS stands for Hazard Communication Standard, which is the OSHA standard with the goal to ensure employers and workers know about chemical hazards in the workplace and how to protect themselves. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard is important because it enforces the idea that workers have the right to know about: What chemicals are in the areas you will be working in? What are the hazards of those chemicals? And, how do you protect yourself from those hazards?

OSHA Standards 1910.1200

The purpose of this section is to ensure that the hazards of all chemicals produced or imported are classified, and that information concerning the classified hazards is transmitted to employers and employees. The transmittal of information is to be accomplished by means of comprehensive hazard communication programs, which are to include container labeling and other forms of warning, safety data sheets and employee training. Workers have a right to know what chemicals are in their workplace, especially if they must use them as a part of their job. HCS requires that chemical manufacturers and importers must develop a Safety Data Sheet or SDS for each chemical they produce or import. Safety Data Sheets contain valuable information about the hazards of specific chemicals and an SDS must be kept on hand for each chemical at the job site.

OSHA Standard 1910.1200(f)(6)

Workplace labeling. The employer shall ensure that each container of hazardous chemicals in the workplace is labeled, tagged or marked. Chemicals that are not properly labeled, or that have damaged labels, should never be used and these chemicals should be reported to the manager or supervisor immediately. Containers that are not labeled and/or are stored improperly creates a serious hazard for any individual who tries to use the chemicals. It also creates a risk as these chemicals could react if they make contact or spill.

OSHA Standard 1910.1200(g)(8)

The employer shall maintain in the workplace copies of the required safety data sheets for each hazardous chemical and shall ensure that they are readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s). Workers should be familiar with the potential hazards of any chemical they use at work. It is important that all chemicals be labeled properly.

What does this mean for you? If you have the potential of exposure to chemicals at work, your employer must provide training and meet other requirements of the hazard communication standard. How does your company comply with the hazard communication standard? Is there anything that could be improved? If so, how?



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Lockout/Tagout Safety

Lockout/tagout is a safety procedure for the service and maintenance of machines and electrical systems. It is intended to maintain a safe working environment for employees when working with hazardous equipment. It applies to all energy sources (chemicals, thermal, hydraulic, and mechanical). Effective lockout/tagout will protect employees by de-energizing (turning off) equipment and not energizing it again until the work is completed by authorized employees. OSHA requires 5 components to comply with the law: Lockout/tagout procedures, Lockout/tagout training, Lockout/tagout policy, Lockout/tagout devices and keys, and Lockout/tagout auditing every year. All procedures and authorized employees must be reviewed.



Lockout/Tag Out Procedure:

- Notify all affected personnel and supervisor.
- Identify the power source for the equipment.
- Shut down equipment, as trained.
- Use the specific lockout procedures for that equipment.
- Do your work assignment properly (LOTO device application).
- Make sure work area is clean.
- Only authorized employees may perform a LOTO procedure.

Reenergizing the Equipment:

- Authorized person inspects the equipment, area, and all safety tools or devices.
- Notify all affected personnel and supervisor.
- Remove the tag and lock to restore energy, as trained.
- Make sure all safety requirements are in place.

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