

GUIDE: How to Increase Job Site Safety

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Why Optimizing Job Site Safety is **Critical to Your Business**

Ensuring that your work sites in the field are being operated on safely is essential for employing a healthy, productive, and engaged workforce. For companies that deal with heavy equipment in particular (like construction and civil engineering firms), it's even more critical to certify that safety protocols are being adhered to, since there are even more opportunities for danger to present itself.

Here are some of the top reasons why job site safety is so important for businesses with employees in the field, as well as a few key pointers on how to make sure it's prioritized and sustained at your various work zones.



Benefits of **Proper Job Site Safety**

Putting processes and documentation in place to limit on-site hazards helps your organization improve both employee safety and morale during day-to-day work. A stronger, more careful workforce also enables your administrators to keep everything accounted for (including the operation of heavy equipment) and truly confirm that proper safety measures are being followed.

> In addition to enhanced morale and well-being for your staff, placing a greater emphasis on job site safety increases output and profits for your organization by giving you extra resources to keep projects running according to schedule. Experience positive impacts beyond just keeping your employees safer as a result of improved precautionary measures.

Impact of Poor Job Site Safety

On the flipside, job site safety measures that are lacking in detail, efficiency, and frequency can damage your workforce. Besides adding concerns over the health and welfare of your valued employees, poor job site safety can lead to challenges in finding skilled new talent to join your team if your business has a negative reputation in this regard.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandates that organizations across multiple industries have appropriate measures in place to keep their workers safe. Costly OSHA fines stemming from safety violations or failing to maintain proper documentation may harm your company's bottom line, making it even more imperative to ensure you run a clean, efficient, and attentive operation.



Three Ways to Improve Your Company's Job Site Safety

With job site safety the number one priority for you and your workforce, let's take a look at some key ways you can increase it before, during, and after a project's completion.

How to Improve Job Site Safety **Before a Project**

Ensuring that proper training has taken place prior to beginning a project may sound obvious, but it's one of the most essential ways to verify that your job site's safety levels are up to par. In case of an emergency, a crisis management plan should also be created and identified in advance. This will enable you to react quicker and smarter in the moment if a job site accident is to occur.

How to Improve Job Site Safety **During a Project**

During a project, there are several steps you can take to prevent disasters, starting with proper documentation of everything that goes on at your job site. Ensuring the structural integrity of equipment like scaffolding by performing inspections before, during, and after use helps prevent falls and monitor wear over time. Only those who are certified to operate specific types of machinery should do so, and each time a piece of heavy equipment is used, notating it is important.

(Tip: Have your managers record the names of any employees who operated a piece of equipment each day, their signatures, and specific times of when the machinery was used to further increase insight about what's going on at your job sites).

How to Improve Job Site Safety After a Project

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Post-project reports and analytics are a must for enhancing work zone safety for the future once projects are completed. These enable you to develop strategies for future projects on how to improve safety even more. Syncing digital safety checklist data with third-party systems your firm already uses can also make information easier to reference whenever it's needed.

How to Measure the Impact of Job Site Safety on Productivity and Profitability

Excellent job site safety has profound impacts on productivity and profitability for your workforce. As previously discussed, the benefits of increased employee health enable you to care more effectively for the needs of your staff (while also helping improve morale, retention, and recruiting).

From a bottom line standpoint, these three factors of employee morale, retention, and recruiting can all help reduce costs associated with turnover, if kept in good standing. They also have a pivotal effect on building a strong internal culture. In addition to positive effects on company environment, you can better prevent OSHA fines from being handed to your organization if you're adequately prioritizing employee safety.



According to ConstructionDive.com, one of the most common OSHA violations for construction sites is insufficient protection against falls from elevated areas. These and other types of infractions can pose significant threats to your business's revenue stream. For significant violations, fines now are over \$12,000 per instance, and for willful, repeated violations, they can exceed \$120,000 per instance. The good news, however, is that there's been a decrease in worker deaths on average in America, from roughly 38 per day in 1970 to 15 per day in

<u>2019</u>. This is likely due to a greater attention being given to protecting workers over the decades, as well as new enhancements in technology being created that make it smarter and easier to do so.

The U.S. construction industry in particular has seen an 11% increase in employees since the year 2011.

Given the fact that there are more employees than ever before in this field, it's even more important that these vital members of the workforce be given proper tools to stay safe while they do their jobs.



Business owners, crew members, and supervisors are all equally responsible for helping ensure a work site remains up to standards and safe for everyone. Use these indispensable strategies to help reduce danger during each stage of a project, keep your construction sites more accountable, and better protect your company's most valuable asset – its employees.

Learn more about how our platform can help your firm increase its safety and savings today at <u>www.actsoft.com/teamwherx.</u>

Sources:

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