

It's common for various trades to operate near one another on a jobsite. This makes the collaboration of safety crucial to prevent incidents from occurring.

Identifying Hazards

When multiple trades work close to one another, it can introduce a new range of hazards that demand our attention:

- 1. Trip and Slip Hazards:** Tools, materials or debris belonging to or left behind by other trades might create potential tripping hazards if not managed properly.
- 2. Mechanical and Chemical Hazards:** Ongoing work by different trades could introduce electrical, mechanical or chemical hazards that could affect nearby workers.
- 3. Limited Visibility Risks:** Heavy equipment or materials may obstruct line-of-sight, leading to collisions or accidents.
- 4. Restricted Access/Egress:** Confined spaces or restricted access points might emerge due to ongoing work by other trades. This can cause access/egress issues and limit emergency exit routes.

Safety Measures

- 1. Effective Communication:** Establish and maintain clear communication channels among different trades. Regularly schedule meetings to discuss work plans, potential hazards and safety protocols. An example of this would be a weekly trades coordination meeting or a pre-job hazard assessment.
- 2. Site Familiarization:** Take the time to thoroughly understand the layout of the work area. Participate in site-specific orientations to review potential and present hazards. Be aware of other trades' work schedules and how that might impact your work.
- 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Always wear the appropriate PPE, including high-visibility clothing, hardhats, boots, safety glasses and gloves to safeguard against potential hazards.

4. Maintain Housekeeping Standards: Housekeeping is a joint effort of all trades on site. Keeping areas clear from debris and well-lit can eliminate common trip hazards.

5. Use Signage and Barricades: Use warning signs, barricades, or barriers to clearly mark out hazardous areas. This prevents unauthorized access to your work area when necessary. (Ensure you have a contact number for lockout areas).

6. Tool and Equipment Safety: Properly store tools and equipment when not in use. Ensure they're kept in designated areas to prevent obstructions or potential hazards for other trades.

7. Remain Observant: Maintain continuous awareness of your surroundings. Watch out for any changes or unexpected hazards introduced by other trades.

8. Adhere to Procedures: Strictly follow established procedures and safety protocols, especially those pertaining to working around other trades.

Reporting and Addressing Concerns

If you observe any unsafe conditions or potential hazards caused by other trades:

1. Stop work and immediately report the issue to your supervisor and/or safety officer.
2. Take necessary precautions to prevent accidents or injuries until the concern is addressed.

Remember: safety is everyone's responsibility. If you see something, say something.

Conclusion

Working alongside other trades demands proactive engagement, consistent awareness and open communication. By following these safety measures and staying alert, we can ensure a safer work environment for everyone involved. Remember, our collective safety relies on each individual's actions and awareness.