

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY 101: SITE SAFETY BASICS



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A jobsite or worksite is defined as an area where an industry is located or where work takes place. Occupational Health and Safety legislation governs jobsite safety in Saskatchewan but when speaking in the practical sense, site safety can be pared down to a few basic considerations that act like the glue that holds a company's safety management system together.

When operating a job site keep the following in mind:

- Personal Safety – keeping people safe is critical.
 - All workers on site, whether they are employees or sub-contractors, should receive an orientation that covers company rules, emergency procedures, location of first aid stations and personnel qualified to administer first aid.
 - All workers on a jobsite operating equipment must have proper training and be accredited or certified where accreditation or certification is required.
 - Although personal protective equipment (PPE) is the last line of defence, its importance should not be overlooked. Having all required PPE on site gives your employees access when required and demonstrates your commitment to safety.
- Housekeeping can have a large impact on site safety. A well-maintained site will help with a reduction in slip, trip and fall incidents, and other more severe injuries.
 - On-site containers for hazardous or flammable waste should be kept separately from other waste and trash.

- All construction areas, stairs, ramps, shops, storage areas, and offices must be lit while work is in progress.
- All ramps and walkways more than six feet above ground must have guard rails in place.
- Although it may not be a legislated requirement, securing jobsites with fencing or other barricades to prevent public access is also recommended.
- Documentation is essential to ensure the success of safety on site.
 - Site and hazard inspections serve to inventory hazards on site and need to be communicated to everyone, as do the steps taken to control the hazard.
 - Other documentation that should be collected includes but is not limited to vehicle logs, equipment maintenance records, and PPE inspection records.
 - The safety manual – arguably, the most important piece of the documentation puzzle. The safety manual should identify all applicable safe work practices and procedures to be followed, along with company policies.

Finally, as a general contractor or property owner, if you don't specifically designate a general contractor, you will be responsible for site safety, and that responsibility comes with legislative obligations.

Safety must make sense. Follow these few safety basics to reduce jobsite injuries and incidents that could lead to costly delays and affect your financial bottom line. For more information, visit: www.scsaonline.ca. 