

# SECURITY NOTE

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Safety on construction sites



Did you know?

## Introduction

When working on a construction site, you may be exposed to several risks and dangers. Your exposure to risk is independent of the role you play on the construction site. These risks include cuts, burns, trips, slips, and falls. There are several ways to eliminate risks on your construction sites. Here are some of suggestions:<sup>1-2</sup>

- Attend all meetings and training related to health and safety on site
- Always wear the required PPE
- Remain vigilant and familiarize yourself with safety posters and instructions as well as the emergency response plan
- Dispose of waste immediately and keep the site in order. Provide containers for scrap if necessary
- Keep stairs, passageways, ladders, scaffolding and walkways clear and free of obstructions
- Remove or bend nails that protrude from lumber
- Secure cables or hoses. Do not allow cables or hoses to pass through pedestrian traffic areas
- Store hazardous materials according to the manufacturer's recommendations, in suitable and properly identified containers
- Ensure that signs are posted to notify of the prohibition of smoking, open flames, and other sources of ignition in areas where flammable and explosive materials are stored or used
- Use the appropriate equipment for each task
- Make sure you are trained for each task
- Use proper handling methods when handling heavy loads
- Familiarize yourself with assembly points and the location of emergency kits and first aid

## Personal Protective Equipment

- Helmet: CSA Z94.1-M1977 approved, ANSI Z89.1-2009. A damaged or expired helmet must be replaced immediately
- In Canada, safety footwear must comply with CSA Z195 Protective Footwear. Workers exposed to electric current must wear safety footwear appropriate to the task

In addition to these, there are other essential personal protective equipment depending on the activity: protection of the face and

eyes, hearing, body, hands, respiratory system, against falls, for example. Attention must also be paid to workers clothing: avoid wearing baggy clothing, tie long hair back, remove jewelry, and wear a reflective jacket/vest, if necessary or required by the facility.



Figure 1: Courtesy of iStock

## Some Recommendations

- If in doubt, ask a manager for further explanations
- Start each visit with an identification of possible hazards. Be on the lookout for dangerous situations
- Pay attention to posted or verbal traffic signs, safety signs, and other safety instructions given on the site
- Understand the worker's right to refuse unsafe work

## Regulatory Framework

- Canada Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), Université du Québec
- U.S. Occupational Health Act of 1970 and relevant related standards
- Ministère du travail, du plein emploi et de l'insertion, France
- Other applicable local and federal Labour Codes
- Standards (CSA, ISO)

<sup>1</sup> Paladin Security. The 5 most important safety tips for construction sites. July 7, 2020. Retrieved from <https://paladinsecurity.com/safety-tips/construction-safety-tips/>

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Workplace housekeeping – construction site checklist. June 12, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/cklstcon.html>

