

# Public Safety Around Construction Projects



We spend time, money and energy making our project sites safe for workers. It's important to make the same effort to ensure the areas around the project site are safe for the public.

You might think it's common sense to avoid a crack in the sidewalk, to walk around a wayward wheelbarrow, to stay clear of a crane in use or to step over a divot in the dirt. Unfortunately, the public—drivers and pedestrians alike—don't often recognize the hazards associated with a construction project. In fact, most just find construction projects a nuisance.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

The first step is to thoroughly assess your project. Consider the location of the site and the hazards that might potentially affect the public.

After making the assessment, develop a specific plan for protecting the public from the identified hazards. This plan should address activities such as:

- Secure tools, equipment and materials when not in use
- Fence and gate the entire project perimeter and specific hazards within the project site
- Install multiple warning signs on the fence instructing the public that this is a construction site and admittance is restricted to workers and suppliers
- Cover or barricade excavation areas
- Guard stairs and landings
- Barricade or net areas subject to falling debris

- Limit access to hazardous or flammable materials by using approved storage lockers
- Adjust perimeter lighting
- Enhance housekeeping measures
- Utilize trained flaggers, reduce speed limits and use lane barriers, if the project extends into the roadway

Go above and beyond your normal duties to protect those who come near your job site. Don't assume the public is educated on construction site safety. Be proactive and make the area as safe as possible. If you see a potential hazard, report it to the site supervisor.

The exterior of the project site must be inspected and adjusted throughout the day. Of critical importance is ensuring that appropriate night time traffic and pedestrian controls are in place before securing the project site for the night.

