

Running a small construction site?

What you need to know as a busy builder

Want to run a successful construction site?

These are the essential health and safety top tips you should follow if you run a construction site, even if you don't directly employ the people working there.

- Keep your site clean and tidy, with clear space for people to work in.
- Keep people, including the public, away from danger – fence the site off and use signs to warn people.
- Make sure structures, such as walls, are kept safe, and demolition work is properly planned and workers know what to do.
- Use only 110 volt or battery-operated portable tools and safe electrical supplies.
- Make sure trenches and excavations don't collapse and ensure people cannot fall into them.
- Make sure workers cannot fall from height – working from ladders is allowed only as a last resort.
- Provide welfare facilities on site or close by – see the 'Welfare facilities' information sheet.
- Make sure the people on your site are trained to do the work safely.

This is just a summary – you can find out what else you need to know about health and safety by visiting www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm

What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

A young worker with no training or instruction was left unsupervised to demolish a high wall known to be unsafe. The young worker was killed when the wall collapsed on him. The builder was convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison for three years.

See over for examples of good practice...

Fee for Intervention

HSE now recovers the costs of time spent dealing with material breaches of health and safety law. This is known as Fee for Intervention (FFI). FFI generally applies when an inspector finds something wrong that they believe is serious enough for them to write to you about. A fee is charged for the time spent by the inspector in sorting it out. Following the simple guidance on this sheet may help you to avoid having to pay a fee.

Unacceptable



Good examples



Further information

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/. You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

This leaflet contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

This leaflet is available at:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis63.pdf.

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