

## Construction Safety Programs

### Loss Control Bulletin

Construction trades typically provide greater hazard exposures to their employees than most other industries. This often results in higher injury and severity rates. An effective safety program can help employers to reduce unnecessary pain and suffering and lower insurance costs related to safety performance.

#### **Essential elements for a successful construction safety program include:**

- The key to any successful safety program is genuine commitment and participation at all levels of management. Employees will take their cue from managements support of the safety program
- A Code of Safe Work Practices must be posted at every jobsite. Supervisors must be sure that all employees follow it.
- Supervisors must hold and employees must attend regular “Tool-box” safety meetings. Meetings should be conducted at least every ten working days.
- Pre-job planning meetings should be conducted to discuss hazardous elements of a job, and to develop control measures.
- Management, superintendents, and foremen should meet at least on a monthly basis to review project status and to discuss safety activities and performance.  
New employees need to be carefully indoctrinated and required to read and follow the Code of Safe Work Practices.
- Only specially trained and qualified employees must be permitted to operate dangerous equipment or machinery.
- All employees must be trained to recognize and protect themselves from known job hazards.
- Appropriate emergency medical services must be available at jobsites. Depending on the size of the job and number of employees involved, appropriate medical services may require:
  - a first-aid kit
  - a trained medical first-aid provider
  - on-going first-aid training. Daily job-site safety inspections are important. They help to maintain employee interest in the program and ensure unsafe conditions are promptly corrected.
- Accident investigations help identify unsafe conditions and/or unsafe practices that must be eliminated to prevent recurrence.
- Maintaining good housekeeping is particularly vital on construction sites because of the special hazards associated with the type and variety of debris created by different trades.
- Documentation of all the safety activities will help assure that your safety program is communicated to all employees and always remains effective.

If you need assistance with your construction safety program, please call Republic Indemnity's loss control department.