

Site Protection

The success of your business not only requires that you protect workers from injury but also anyone who may come in contact with your operations. Protecting others helps lower operating costs and protects the company's brand and image, which are essential components of the success equation.

Whether at your facility or a job site, there are opportunities for persons not employed by your company to sustain injuries. Maybe there is an unaccompanied visitor to your facility or an unknowing tenant who walks into an active work area and becomes injured. Serious injuries could result in lawsuits or higher insurance rates. Time and investment spent planning and implementing controls do not begin to compare to these costs.

Here are the best practices for protecting your resources, workers, and others who are not affiliated with your company.

1. Have everyone check-in at the office or with the site supervisor before accessing the work area. Train employees to ask unaccompanied visitors or individuals who've wandered into the work area if they can be of assistance and direct them to the office and/or supervisor.
2. Require visitors to sign in at the office and wear a name badge, if applicable.
3. Establish your work zone with barricades, tape, fencing, or other means. Identify the work area and potential "drop zones" or controlled access zones, especially where there is overhead work or machinery in use.
4. Designate and erect pathways and overhead walkway protection, if necessary, to prevent injuries to building occupants, visitors, or pedestrians.
5. Post signage to identify and warn of potential hazards in highly visible locations.
6. Designate crosswalks and pedestrian traffic, isolating everyone from vehicular traffic.
7. Install barriers to discourage and prevent entry with barricades, barricade tape, and chains.
8. Use a magnet to gather and collect loose nails that could injure someone or damage their property. Tires tend to find nails and screws that you don't.
9. Practice good housekeeping. Everything has a place. Make sure to put things in order and away from walkways, exits, and entrances. Neatly stack wood outside of walking and working paths. Slip, trip, and fall accidents often lead to serious injuries such as broken bones and muscle sprains.
10. Identify and remove potential impalement hazards. Nails protruding from lumber or vertical rebar could cause injury.
11. Plan work activities to prevent damaging neighboring property. For example, take weather into account before starting work activities. A windy day combined with painting overspray could require you to wash and/or repaint neighboring vehicles or property.
12. Have tenants or neighboring building occupants relocate their vehicles away from work activities. Place signage and barricades, removing them from areas where materials could fall and create damage.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: fwcruminsurance.com