



BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

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ASSE Issues Construction Safety Standard with Focus on Unprotected Holes, Sides, Edges

The standard recognizes the need for protection of personnel from injury when exposed to hazards due to unprotected holes, sides and edges in construction and demolition operations.

ANSI/ASSE A10.18-2007 standard is one of a series of standards that focus on construction and demolition operations. It was approved by ANSI on March 23, 2007.

The standard recommends rules and establishes minimum safety requirements for the protection of employees and the public from hazards that are associated with temporary roof and floor holes, wall openings, stairways and other unprotected sides and edges, and roofs, during construction and demolition activities.

This standard applies only to those instances when the leading edge work is not currently under construction and is therefore considered an "unprotected side and edge."

ANSI/ASSE A10.18-2007 does not apply to scaffolds or scaffold stairs used as temporary access, steel erection or the application of membrane roofing materials. ASSE serves as the secretariat for the A10 Accredited Standards Committee on construction and demolition industry.

"The safety of workers and the public around construction and demolition operations is our primary concern when developing the A10 standards," said A10 Committee

Chairman and ASSE Professional Member Richard King, CSP.

The ANSI/ASSE A10.18 standard was created to establish reasonable and practical safety requirements to protect employees and the public from falls due to temporary roof and floor holes, wall openings, stairways and other unprotected edges.

Nail Gun Injuries

New analysis show workplaces may have to place more emphasis on nail gun safety.

A Center for Disease Control report says visits to emergency departments for nail gun injuries jumped in 2005 to 28,600, after averaging just over 20,000 in each of the four previous years.

Some other nail gun injury stats:

- 87% of injuries were either a wound with the nail still embedded or the nail having passed right through
- 4% involved bone fractures, and
- 66% involved the upper extremities, primarily hands and fingers.

Any workplace training on the use of nail guns can serve a dual purpose: 40% of all nail gun injuries are now off-the-job.

Worker Visibility

By the end of 2008, all workers within rights-of-way of federal-aid highways who are exposed to traffic or construction equipment in the work area will have to wear high-visibility safety apparel, according to a new rule, 23 CFR Part 634 Worker Visibility, published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA),

on November 24, 2006, commencing a two-year phase-in period.

The final rule defines workers as "people on foot whose duties place them within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, such as highway construction and maintenance forces, survey crews, utility crews, responders to incidents within the highway right-of-way, and law enforcement personnel when directing traffic, investigating crashes, and handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway."

In issuing the final rule, the FHWA emphasized that the requirement applies to all workers, whether paid or volunteer, and also noted that the rule applies to all right-of-way on federal-aid highways, not just work zones.



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MONTHLY TOOLBOX TALK

Bad Habits - How to Change Them

Mistakes – How to Avoid Them

As a construction worker, you are exposed to the dangers of the jobsite on a daily basis. One oversight, error, or shortcut on your part can lead to injuries, deaths, and disaster. Bad habits put you at risk so you should focus on safety when you perform each and every task. Learn to identify your bad habits and then change them to safe habits.

A habit is an acquired tendency; it is usually acquired by frequent repetition of the same act until it becomes almost involuntary. It's clear that good habits as well as bad habits are developed and are not instinctual. By consciously focusing on safe habits and removing bad habits, you'll reinforce behavior that will help reduce accidents and injuries on the job. To improve safety on the jobsite, you should identify your bad habits, consider the causes or reasons and take action to change and correct unsafe behavior.

Identify bad habits: You already know the rules and safety requirements for each task you perform. Do you have any bad habits that could contribute to accidents? Are you skipping a step, making do, or improvising in any way? Are you likely to take chances with safety? Think about your bad habits and the risks involved.

Consider the causes and reasons: Some of the most common causes for developing bad habits include carelessness, anger, lack of training, being tired, over confident, or in a hurry. Most often people develop bad habits because they are trying to save time. Keep in mind that allowing yourself to be exposed to danger for even a moment can lead to a fatal accident. It only takes a second for an accident to happen. No matter what the reason, there is no excuse for risking your life or the lives of your co-workers.

Change and correct unsafe behavior: Sometimes all you need is patience. Give yourself the time to follow all the necessary procedures for each task you perform. Instead of worrying about saving time, do the job right and save your life. If you feel you need additional training, ask your supervisor. Often, a bad habit can be changed with organization or relocation. If you're reluctant to use the right tool because the toolbox is too far away, consider whether it's convenient or possible to relocate it. If you have ideas for some practical solutions to change bad habits, talk to your supervisor.

Remember that it takes time and repetition to change a habit.

Think carefully about the choices you make each day so you "Don't Make These Mistakes."

1. Smoking around flammable liquids or during refueling operations. 29 CFR 1926.151(a)(3): Smoking shall be prohibited at or in the vicinity of operations which constitute a fire hazard.
2. Wedging a circular saw blade guard out of the way. 29 CFR 1926.302(e)(11): All tools shall be used with the correct shield, guard, or attachment recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Using a damaged electrical tool or cord. 29 CFR 1926.403(b)(1): The employer shall ensure that electrical equipment is free from recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.
4. Working on an unprotected walking or working surface 6 feet or more above a lower level. 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(1): Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.
5. Entering an unprotected trench. 29 CFR 1926.652(a)(1): Each employee in an excavation shall be protected from cave-ins by an adequate protective system.
6. Working on a suspended scaffold made from an old wooden ladder. 29 CFR 1926.451(a)(6): Scaffolds shall be designed by a qualified person and shall be constructed and loaded in accordance with that design.
7. Using a job-built ladder that is missing rungs. 29 CFR 1926.1053(a)(2): Ladder rungs, cleats, and steps shall be parallel, level, and uniformly spaced when the ladder is in position for use.
8. Operating a piece of heavy equipment without a horn. 29 CFR 1926.602(a)(9)(i): All bi-directional machines such as rollers, compactors, front-end loaders, bulldozers, and similar equipment, shall be equipped with a horn.

**Your best bet is to form safe habits from the start.
Learn how to do the job right and don't let
yo urself develop bad habits.**