

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic C371: Protecting the Public

**Introduction:** The majority of work done in the construction industry is performed in close contact with the public. As professionals, it is an important part of our job to protect the public from the hazards of our work. Most people are unaware of the hazards of a construction site, and must be protected by those of us who know. Whether passing by, through, or in the case of remodeling work, living in the construction site, it is our responsibility to keep the public safe. Following are guidelines to help you protect the public from work-site hazards:

- Any work performed on a public thoroughfare, or right-of-way, must have proper traffic control measures provided to keep motorists and pedestrians separated from the work zone. The correct signs must be posted the proper distance before the work zone to inform the public of the hazards ahead. If barricades, cones, or signs are insufficient to safely control the flow of traffic, flaggers must be posted to direct traffic safely through the zone.
- Use signs and barricades to keep the work site isolated from the public.
- Many construction jobs are performed at night. Use proper lighting, along with signs and barricades, to warn the public of your presence.
- If work is near enough to walkways to present any hazard to the public, obtain the proper permits and close off the walkway to re-route foot traffic around the work zone. Keep open walkways near your job-site clean, free of debris, and well lit.
- While working at heights protect openings with covers, toeboards, or nets to prevent tools and debris from dropping on the public, or coworkers.
- When performing excavation work near roadways or walkways, fence off material piles to prevent material from accidentally rolling into traffic.
- Any walkways over an excavation must be provided with guardrails.
- Do not leave tools or materials unattended around children at any time.
- Ensure that material handling operations such as crane hoisting, unloading trucks, and material stockpiling, etc. are performed well away from the public.
- If you spot children or any pedestrian on, or even passing through a job-site, immediately intercept them and escort them safely off the premises.
- Ensure that all tools, equipment, and materials are secured before traveling a public thoroughfare.
- Post "NO SMOKING" signs around fueling operations, and areas where work with, or storage of, flammable material is performed.
- When operating trucks and heavy equipment, be aware that the majority of the public has no idea of the destructive capability of those machines. Always give the right-of-way to the public. Courtesy when operating equipment shows professionalism and a commitment to safety.
- After work hours, ensure that all tools, equipment, and chemicals are properly secured and stored. Walk the job-site after quitting time to check that all barricades and warning signs are in place and secure. Ensure that all warning signals and/or lights are functioning properly.

If you spot children or any pedestrian on, or even passing through a job-site, immediately intercept them and escort them safely off the premises.

**Conclusion:** Out of ignorance, the public will occasionally put themselves at risk around a construction site. Your attention to the public's safety on the job is the only thing protecting the public from the hazards of construction sites. Never rely on the common sense of the public to protect themselves.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*