



Construction Risk Advisor

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JOB SITE CELLPHONE USE

Mobile technology can be a valuable tool for the construction industry, but when it comes to using it on the job site, there's one device workers should leave behind: their cellphone.

Although cellphones can be a necessary method of communication on job sites, they distract workers from potential hazards and recommended safety practices. Employers in the construction industry should consider the following recommendations regarding cellphone use on construction sites:

- Enact and enforce clear policies that prohibit texting and talking on a cellphone while operating any kind of motorized vehicle on-site.
- Consider a prohibition on workplace cellphone use in specific areas where distractions could create employee hazards, regardless of whether the employees are operating motorized vehicles.
- For company-issued cellphones, consider the use of applications that block internet access and texting functionality while in a moving vehicle.
- Make construction sites cellphone-free zones, and post signs in designated areas to remind workers. Only allow workers access to their cellphones during break periods and in designated areas.

Even without distractions from cellphones, construction sites can be hazardous. Enforcing safety practices and consistently holding workers accountable can prevent unnecessary workplace accidents and costly liability. Contact Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers Ltd for more information on minimizing the risk of job site cellphone use.

TOP CONSTRUCTION HAZARDS

Construction sites can be hazardous, and many injuries that occur there are caused by four main hazards: falls, struck-by, caught in/between and electrocutions. Here are some basic safety tips to keep you safe:

1. **Falls**—Wear and use fall arrest equipment. Install and maintain perimeter protection.
2. **Struck-by**—Never position yourself between moving and fixed objects. Wear high-visibility clothes near equipment and vehicles.
3. **Caught in/between**—Never enter an unprotected trench that is 1.5 metres (5 feet) or deeper without adequate protective systems.
4. **Electrocutions**—Maintain a safe distance away from power lines and learn your area's distance requirements. Do not operate portable electric tools unless they are grounded or double-insulated.

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