

# Construction Site Danger Awareness for Children



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SAFETY



**Each year 2 to 3 children die after gaining access to building sites and many more are injured.**

**This year, let's make it ZERO.**

# Construction Site Danger Awareness for Children

How can you help increase awareness amongst children?



**Share the above image with your local school, with your children.**

**Help them to understand what the signs mean.**

**Make sure any building sites local to you have the relevant warning signs in place.**

# Childproof your Building Site



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- We have no control over rain, wind, lightning or sunshine.
- As a Principal Contractor you can control what happens on a building site as a result of the elements.
  - The UK has a five times higher incidence of skin cancer (melanoma) compared to Australia; why?
- Wind loading on sheets, panels and similar loads can cause sudden and unexpected high falls and other injuries.



# Site safety in summer



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Sun – not guaranteed in the UK but it can and does cause problems!

- Make sure your employees keep their shirts on;
- Provide sun block cream to protect staff from sunburn;
- Have supplies of potable water available;
- Encourage staff to cover up.



# Site safety in summer



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- As Principal Contractor you are responsible for the health and safety of your workforce;
- Too much sunlight is harmful to skin;
- It can cause skin damage including sunburn, blistering and skin ageing and in the long term can lead to an increased risk of skin cancer;
- Skin cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer in the UK with over 50,000 new cases every year;
- A tan is a sign that the skin has been damaged. The damage is caused by ultraviolet (UV) rays in sunlight.

# Site safety in summer



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## Working in hot environments

- reschedule work to cooler times of the day;
- provide more frequent rest breaks and introduce shading to rest areas;
- provide free access to cool drinking water;
- introduce shading in areas where individuals are working;
- encourage the removal of personal protective equipment when resting to help encourage heat loss;
- educate workers about recognising the early symptoms of heat stress.

# Site safety in summer



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Rain may be unavoidable in a British Summer,  
But;



- Rain can ruin building supplies and turn the site into a giant mud pie;
- Steel gets slippery, equipment gets stuck, visibility gets reduced (especially when reversing, workplace transport remains the second biggest killer in the UK workplace);
- Be especially careful with slips, trips and falls, these cause 35% of all workplace accidents and can lead to more serious incidents.

# Site safety in summer



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- Everyday winds and unexpected gusts;
- Hoarding and Heras fencing, scaffold netting acting as a sail, so if it is windy, securely tie or weight down supplies and materials;
- Ensure that you scaffold is regularly inspected after high winds;
- Gusts provide a near instantaneous 38kg of force to a 8' x 4' sheet or board - enough to blow you off a scaffold or into an excavation.



# Site safety in summer



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## Children on construction sites:

- Children are attracted to construction sites;
- Large heavy vehicles – with restricted vision for drivers;
- Pits and manholes – children could fall in or even play hide and seek;
- Building materials – concrete burns from wet cement or from playing in cement dust which mixes with sweat (alkali burns);
- No PPE – not wearing high vis or hard hats;
  - Note; schools can access the HSE film 'Game Over' to educate their pupils if your site is nearby, also try <https://www.ivorgoodsite.org.uk/>

# Site safety in summer



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As Principal Contractor you are responsible for everyone who comes on site and this legal duty of care extends to out of hours.

- Ensure the Heras fencing is securely fixed;
- Ensure all excavations or holes are guarded or covered;
- Remove external ladders for gaining access to scaffolding;
- Where there are ladders that can't be moved board the bottom rungs so there is no access.