

Preventing Construction Workplace Violence



PRESENTED BY:

MEETING START TIME:

DATE OF MEETING:

MEETING END TIME:

Keep the Conversation Going with a Safety Talk Question:

How Can You Identify Risks and Help Prevent Violence on Our Project?

1. Spotting Potential Risks and Red Flags

- Working in Isolation – Working in groups in conspicuous areas presents a natural deterrent. Working alone or in isolated areas makes employees more vulnerable to a potential incident.
- Working Late at Night or in High-Crime Areas – Statistics typically show violent crime peaking after nightfall especially in unstable or poorly policed areas.
- Working with Volatile or Unstable Individuals – If a person is exhibiting worrisome behavior, it's crucial to report it immediately. This can include unusual hostility, unwanted contact, aggressive language, and verbal intimidation or threats. This is not limited to employees. Common locations include healthcare and social services with unstable patients/clients.
- Working with Money/Valuables/Merchandise – If the jobsite is a potential target for criminal activity prior to work starting there is an increased risk of violence (for example, an onsite pharmacy that will remain active during a hospital renovation).

2. Preventing Incidents

- Jobsite Analysis – Ensure thorough evaluations prior to work starting. This includes confirming secure access points, sufficient lighting, and absence of any blind spots as well as identifying issues with equipment (broken locks, missing cameras, etc.).
- Written Guidelines – Become familiar with your organization's prevention policy, ideally zero tolerance, paying strict adherence and promoting a culture of safety and vigilance.
- Situational Awareness – Scan the jobsite and scan your workspace every day. Remain alert and know your surroundings. If you are suddenly alone or isolated remove yourself and notify a supervisor. Know escape routes and move near exits if a risk has been identified.
- High-Risk Best Practices – When a potential incident is developing, remain calm and maintain a safe distance from problematic individuals, communicate in a non-threatening manner, refrain from arguing or escalation, and request backup as soon as possible.
- Reporting – Even minor incidents or near misses should be reported and documented in a timely manner. This includes both suspicious people and vehicles. Prompt reporting both helps prevent incidents and identifies potential patterns.

Sources:

1. <https://www.osha.gov/workplace-violence/>
2. <https://www.osha.gov/workplace-violence/prevention-programs>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/violence/about/index.html>

