

TOOL BOX TALKS

Night Operations

Construction jobsites are already dangerous. But construction and roofing jobsites become even more hazardous when work carries over into the night hours. A myriad of new hazards arise, from fatigue to altered depth perception. Night operations usually mean that the job has to get done quickly, or it means there's a problem. Either way, night work presents many challenges for employees. Discuss these safety tips with the crew.

WORKSAFE TIPS

DAYTIME SETUP

- Set up as much of the jobsite as possible during the day.
- Note hazards during daytime hours, and review these hazards when night operations begin.
- Look for the following things during the day, that could lead to accidents during the night:
 - Overhead power lines
 - Holes, dips or trenches
 - Protruding pipes or trip hazards
 - Obstacles
 - Identify changes in walking surfaces
- When it gets dark, review these hazards and their controls with the crew.

THE FATIGUED WORKER

- Night time work presents many challenges for workers accustomed to working during the day.
- Employees will be tired, which will lead to decreased concentration and alertness.
- This decreased level of alertness can result in increased exposure to an accident.
- When sleeping during the day, make sure the room is dark and quiet, with minimal interruptions.
- Have plenty of food and water during night operations.
- Avoid high-caffeine beverages, as they will produce a brief period of alertness which will quickly lead to fatigue and light-headedness.
- Make sure employees are capable of driving home safely after work is complete.

LIGHTING

- Provide plenty of jobsite illumination during night operations.
- Use power from temporary services or the building if possible.
- Generators must be equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)
- If generators do not have GFCI, then external units must be provided.
- Never fill gasoline tanks on hot generators—allow to cool before refueling.
- Inspect extension cords daily and remove if damaged.
- Keep extension cords out of pathways—run along parapet walls or in expansion joints.
- Do not repair extension cords with tape.
- Set up work lights and test them before nightfall.
- Illuminate work areas, pathways and material handling areas.
- Illuminate hazards like overhead power lines, trip hazards and roof edges.
- Get the lighting as high as possible, low lighting can blind workers.
- Employees must have flashlights in case jobsite lights fail.
- When jobsite lights fail, employees must stay still and await instructions from foremen. Then exit work areas in an orderly fashion.

COMMUNICATION

- Communicate with machine operators by two-way radio.
- Assign extra employees to help communication between machine operators and the crew.
- Wear high-visibility vests.
- Agree on hand signals beforehand.
- Have a cell phone handy in case of emergency.



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