



Instructions for Leaving a Job Site Safe in the Middle of a Landscape Design/Build/Installation Project

Site Access and Security

- ✓ Install a site sign with your company name and phone number in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Instruct crews to always leave the site at the end of every day as if they are not going to return for several weeks.
- ✓ Fill any trenches or holes the same day they are dug. Do not leave open excavations, such as open holes, ditches or trenches. If you must leave an open excavation, erect construction fencing and/or caution tape or cover with plywood.
- ✓ Stack and store all materials neatly in order to avoid falling items.
- ✓ Clearly mark off areas with caution tape that should not be accessed.
- ✓ Close and lock all security gates.
- ✓ Communicate your schedule and any potential safety issues with other subcontractors and general contractors.

Slipping/Tripping Hazards

- ✓ Group containerized plants or trees and other plants in a ball and burlap wrap closely to secure and prevent from tipping over. Tipped plants pose a tripping hazard and could also result in damage to the plants.
- ✓ Remove any string lines or roping used for layout of masonry or beds.
- ✓ Keep all traffic ways, pathways, and walkways clean and clear of debris.
- ✓ Wash all hard surfaces to remove dirt and debris.
- ✓ Weatherproof with a heavy tarp lined with weights to prevent unnecessary runoff or spillage of materials.

Equipment and Materials

- ✓ Park equipment (backhoes, skid steers, etc.) in a low traffic area with buckets and attachments down.
- ✓ Chain and lock up equipment to prevent injury and theft.
- ✓ Store and lock all hand tools and power equipment in a secure area.
- ✓ Secure fuel containers in a locked, ventilated area that is clearly labeled as flammable for fuel/flammable items. Locked storage areas for fertilizer or chemical products must have a hazardous material label.
- ✓ Cover and weatherproof exposed electrical wiring and other equipment that may pose electrical hazards.
- ✓ Cap tops of rebar (steel reinforcing stakes) and other stakes protruding from ground and exposed irrigation spray heads.
- ✓ Place cones or barricades around any street obstructions. Avoid creating street obstructions such as trailers or material piles.

Water

- ✓ Turn over buckets or other containers that can collect water to avoid mosquito breeding and help prevent the spread of the West Nile virus.
- ✓ Place dewatering equipment in low areas to avoid buildup of water.

Through the OSHA and Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Alliance, PLANET developed this fact sheet for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.

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