



# CHRIS JONES RISK MANAGEMENT

## Controlling Construction Site Hazards

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Many manufacturing companies producing building products often find themselves in a “supply and install” contract. Frequently they handle this situation by sub-contracting the installation side of their business; but they are still responsible for their sub-contractors. Of course, many organisations employ their own installation staff, but tend to leave the site safety to the builder.

These comments are directed to organisations that find themselves exposed to construction site exposures, when their main business is in manufacturing or distribution.

### Construction Site Hazards

The hazards associated with construction work include some of the most common and hazardous in industry:

- Manual handling – manual handling is the major cause of lost time in industry generally.
- Slips trips and fall hazards created by poor housekeeping – these are the most common types of injuries in the workplace.
- Working at height – falls from height are the number two cause of fatalities at work after motor vehicle accidents.

Construction sites are a difficult working environment to control. Hazards are often created and are the responsibility of other parties.

If you sub-contract your installation work, you have an extra layer of management between your project management and the people undertaking the work.



### Hazard Control

How can you control these hazards?

- Ensure that your employees and sub-contractors have detailed, workable safe work method statements or JSAs, and that they follow the safety controls and procedures established in these documents.
- Use your risk assessment procedures to identify high risk activities such as manual handling and working at height, and establish workable solutions to eliminate or control these risks.
- Have your project managers and site supervisors make regular hazard inspections of the workplace, and document the results. As part of these inspections, check that both employees and sub-contractors are using the



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required personal protective equipment, and following safe work procedures.

- Include sub-contractors in your induction training programme.
- Hold regular toolbox meetings with site personnel so that you can establish open communication with them on local hazards. Document the toolbox meetings, and follow through on issues and concerns that are raised. Use the toolbox meetings to emphasise your organisation's commitment to safety.
- Make compliance with the site safety plans, safe work method statements, JSAs and site safety rules a condition of your contracts with sub-contractors, and ensure that their management and supervisors know you take this seriously.
- Implement your own safety standards, even if the builder is not insisting on the highest standards.

Construction work has inherent risks, but a well managed Occupational Health and Safety programme, supported by uncompromising management commitment, can go a long way towards ensuring that your site personnel undertake this work safely.



**Chris Jones Risk Management provides a wide range of Occupational Health and Safety services and training, including:**

- ✓ OHS Audits – SafetyPlan; SafetyPlan Gold; AS 4801
- ✓ OHS programme implementation
- ✓ Risk Assessments
- ✓ OHS culture surveys
- ✓ Accredited training for construction induction and consultation (NSW)
- ✓ OHS training for management and supervisors

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