

Site Security.

Site security is an important issue as trespassers may want to access your site. These trespassers could be children, thieves or your site could be blocking someone's normal access route and they may still attempt to pass through the site. Site security must be well managed to avoid injury to members of the public.

Importance.

Construction sites can appear to be exciting places for children who are unaware of the dangers. Each year children are killed and injured on construction sites. Site security is also important to prevent the theft of expensive materials and equipment stored on site.

Regulations.

The Health and Safety At Work etc Act requires employers and the self-employed to ensure that they do not put members of the public at risk.

Guidance.

- Ensure the site perimeter is secured with 2m high fencing to prevent access to children
- Lock access gates after working hours and any time the site is unoccupied
- Take extra precautions if the site is left unoccupied over weekends or holidays
- Take extra precautions if the site is located in a heavily populated area or close to a school
- Take extra precautions if your site is within an occupied building such as a school or hospital
- Ensure unauthorised people are prevented from accessing the site.
- Ensure authorised persons are inducted
- Ensure visitors are supervised at all times
- Question any person you suspect to be a trespasser and escort unauthorised persons off the site

- Remove access ladders from excavations and scaffolds out of hours
- Barrier off or cover excavations and edges
- Immobilise all vehicles and plant
- Lock vehicles and plant within a secure site compound if possible
- Power tools, materials and equipment that could be tempting to thieves should be stored out of view
- Lock away hazardous substances within a secure storage
- Ensure building materials are safely stacked and stored so that they can't topple over
- Regularly check perimeter hoarding or fencing to ensure it is intact and secure
- Ensure safety signage is displayed and maintained at the site boundaries

Questions.

1. Why is site security important?
2. How can you help to improve site security?

Summary.

Construction sites are dangerous places particularly to those with little knowledge of the risks and site hazards. Site security should be checked at the end of every shift.