



Situational Awareness

Situational Awareness is the practice of constantly scanning your environment for potential hazards. When you're navigating a busy construction site it's easy to be distracted. Being aware of the potential hazards around you (e.g., trip hazards, overhead hazards, mobile equipment), can keep you and others safe. Implementing a constant state of situational awareness can mitigate struck-by hazards, one of OSHA's Focus Four Hazards for the construction industry.

DANGERS OF NOT MAINTAINING PROPER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Not maintaining situational awareness can result in:

- Equipment/site damage
- Struck-by incidents
- Caught-between incidents
- Trips/slips
- Workplace compliancy, trends of unsafe work conditions

DISTRACTION IN THE WORKPLACE

Common distractions in the workplace include:

- Cell phones
- Music/earbuds
- Loud noises
- Overexertion/exhaustion
- Lack of visibility



HOW TO MITIGATE HAZARDS

- Always train employees on hazard recognition.
- Make sure that employees operating mobile equipment are fully trained.
- Ensure that mobile equipment is inspected (alarms, signals, lights) prior to use.
- Establish the "eye contact rule" - make eye contact before navigating around employees operating equipment (e.g., excavators, forklifts, scissor/aerial lifts, and cars/trucks).
- Do not use cell phones unless standing still, in a safe location.
- Do not use music or earbuds.
- See something, say something. Point out hazards as you see them and try to fix them on the spot.
- Utilize CAUTION/DANGER tape for areas with potential hazards.
- Regularly pause to scan the work environment for hazards.
- Do not rush through the site, move only at walking speeds.
- Peek around corners before proceeding.