

## Construction Vehicle & Pedestrian Safety Talk

A busy construction site can feel like organized chaos. Excavators pivoting, dump trucks backing up, workers carrying rebar or formwork across uneven ground. One moment of distraction or a shortcut across a haul route is all it takes to change a worker's life forever.

Every year, struck-by incidents involving vehicles and pedestrians claim lives and cause devastating injuries on worksites. The safest sites have one thing in common: they are built to keep people and machines apart from the start. Smart layout design, sturdy barriers, and clear traffic routes prevent confusion, protect lives, and allow the work to move forward without constant risk.

### 1. Always Use Designated Pedestrian Routes

- Stick to marked walkways and never take shortcuts through vehicle zones, even if it seems quicker.
- Follow the natural paths provided, these are designed to keep workers safe and away from moving equipment.
- Use footbridges or tunnels if provided, especially in high-traffic or confined areas. Never cross at unapproved spots.

### 2. Respect Barriers and Physical Controls

- Do not move or bypass barriers such as guardrails, bollards, or water-filled barriers. They are there to protect workers.
- Stay within raised curbs or marked walkways and avoid stepping into vehicle paths.
- Use self-closing gates or turnstiles at crossing points. Always pause, look, and check before crossing.

### 3. Cross Only at Designated Points

- Cross vehicle routes only at marked crossings. Never cross randomly or between vehicles.
- Make sure workers can see and be seen, avoid crossing near blind corners or where vehicles are stacked.
- Obey all signs, signals, and instructions at crossings. Wait for the all-clear before stepping out.
- Slow down and stay alert, never rush across a crossing.

#### 4. Follow the Site Traffic Management Plan

- Learn the site map, know all pedestrian and vehicle routes, crossings, and exclusion zones.
- Follow site rules about vehicle movement times, avoid walking in vehicle areas during busy delivery or shift change periods.
- Pay attention to signage, lighting, and instructions, these are updated as the site changes.

#### 5. Stay Clear of Reversing Vehicles

- Never enter reversing zones, these are high-risk areas.
- Watch for vehicles with alarms, cameras, or spotters. If workers must be near reversing vehicles, make eye contact with the driver or spotter and wait for their signal.
- Never assume a driver can see workers. Stay out of blind spots and keep a safe distance.

#### 6. Be Visible and Keep Walkways Clear

- Wear high-visibility clothing at all times.
- Make sure workers' path is clear, don't leave tools, cables, or materials in walkways.
- Report any damaged barriers, missing signs, or blocked paths immediately so they can be fixed.

#### 7. Participate in Ongoing Safety Checks

- Join site walkthroughs and use checklists to spot hazards.
- Speak up if workers see barriers missing, paths blocked, or unsafe crossings.
- Report near misses or incidents—workers' feedback helps improve safety for everyone.

#### Conclusion

A construction site leaves no room for hesitation or shortcuts. Heavy equipment moves fast, blind spots shift, and one careless step can change everything. Safety on the ground is achieved through discipline, clear routes, solid barriers, and crews that look out for one another.

#### Discussion Points

1. *What should be taken into consideration when using pedestrian routes?*