

# Safety Alert

December 2015



## Construction/Road Workers Urged to Secure Work Sites

WorkSafe recently released a Safety Alert in relation to builders being urged to secure construction sites over the festive period. This message is the same for all VicRoads construction work sites that are shutting down over the Christmas/New Year break.

Construction and road workers need to ensure their sites are safe and secure during the Christmas break to prevent unauthorised access and potential injury to the public.

Poorly secured construction/work sites can pose risks to members of the public, particularly inquisitive children looking for adventure over the school holidays.

Risks can include falls from partially built structures, scaffolding and mobile plant, live electrical power, open excavations or building waste and rubble.

WorkSafe Victoria's Executive Director of Health and Safety, Marnie Williams, said simple site clean-ups and security measures would go a long way in ensuring public safety over the summer break.

Workers should be proactive and plan to have sites ready for the holiday shutdown.

Risks to the public can be reduced by:

- Securing access points with locks or other mechanical means to deter people, especially children;
- Bracing or securing boundary fencing so it cannot be pushed or blown over;
- Blocking gaps under fences and gates so they cannot be crawled under;
- Ensuring electrical safety by turning off the main switch and securing the main switchboard to prevent access;
- Bracing and securing partially constructed building elements such as walls and roofs to withstand strong winds and bad weather;
- Securing or removing roofing sheets and other loose materials that have the potential to turn into missiles in strong winds;
- Backfilling excavations or, if they are required to remain open, making sure they are covered or secured;
- Removing unwanted or accumulated construction materials and waste;
- Removing or securing mobile plant; and
- Site offices and storage containers to be secured.

Safety Alert issued 18/12/15 by VicRoads Corporate OHS Team.