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Working Alongside Subcontractors

To run a business, you have to work alongside other companies. This is the case in about any industry that you are in.

You will have vendors and subcontractors that you deal with. This is how jobs get done and things progress forward.

There are many hazards when working with subcontractors. The best way to help decrease the hazards that can occur is to have a plan in place. Jobs run more efficiently when there is preplanning done.

The Dangers of Working Alongside Subcontractors:

Anytime that you add in a new task to a job, there is the potential for hazards. The workers present in the area that new tasks are being added to are most at risk. They have created a routine for the job that they do, now they need to rearrange everything.

Together you will have to figure out how to make your jobs work together. The dangers that are present when working with other companies are there for both sides.

Subcontractors are in a new environment and do not know how everything flows on the worksite. Anytime someone is in a new environment, it takes time to learn the ropes.

Ways To Work Around Subcontractors:

Working around subcontractors may be a difficult task to maneuver. It is a necessary one though. Jobs have to be completed and without this process, they would not get done.

It is important to find a good way to work around each other and both sides get their jobs done.

Here are some helpful tips on ways to do that:

- **Meet Prior To Starting:**

Each day on a construction site can be different. Tasks get completed and need to keep moving on to the next step.

Meet with the subcontractors at the beginning of each day, that way you can arrange a good schedule. One that is safe for all crew members who are working.

- **Speak Up:**

If you are working and notice something not done correctly, do not hesitate to take it to a supervisor. When a subcontractor's employee is not following protocol, make it known. This is going to help the worksite be safe and avoid unnecessary injuries.

- Communication Will Help:

If there is no communication between you and the subcontracting crew, it will be hard to execute the job.

Let them know how your crew works and what is expected. Make them aware of the hazards that can come up and what to do when it does.

Talk to them about the safety precautions that are in place. Safety precautions are going to vary depending on the work getting done.

The subcontractors cannot follow them if they are not made aware of them.

- Stop Work for Hazards:

When a hazard has been brought to attention, all work needs to stop. This way the issue can be safely taken care of. You always want to avoid injuries to crew members at all costs.

- Get Their Point of View as Well:

Talk to the subcontractor and see how they normally work. Figure out what their expectations are and how they execute their jobs. This way you can work together and make a plan to work for both people.

- Delegate Work Area Limits

If you have several workers present in one area, it will become a hazard. Too many workers in one area at the same time becomes a safety hazard.

Talk with the subcontractor and make a plan for your crews. Have designated times that each task is to be executed to avoid injuries.

Summary:

Subcontractors are needed to finish many jobs when it comes to construction work. This is a common practice that is done in this field. It will increase the hazards of the site due to having extra bodies present.

That is why communicating with each other is so important. All aspects should be talked about. Not once, but throughout the entire project.

Take time to discuss the project with subcontractors before they begin their work. Discuss topics such as:

- Concerns
- Hazards
- Plans
- Mitigation