

# Job Site Safety is No Accident!

Safety in the workplace is the joint responsibility of the entire workforce of any organization.

The benefits of maintaining a safe work environment are many, but first and foremost, safety is about proactively protecting workers and those around your work area... who are often customers.

For example, Joe Jones was serving as Project Manager for a renovation project during which the customer site was to remain open-for-business while the work was being done. This meant that a number of people who were unfamiliar with construction work and site protocols would be passing-by and working-around the work area.

Fortunately Joe was well-trained in safety rules and best practices, and he took the initiative of applying this knowledge to maximize safety during the project. In particular, Joe:

- Setup temporary barriers to clearly mark the areas of construction work to prevent unauthorized people from entering the construction area.
- Made sure all workers who were going to be entering the site and operating equipment had been fully briefed and trained in relation to work-site safety.
- Clearly marked and labeled hazardous materials so that anyone coming into contact with them could easily determine any related risks. He also stored these materials in proper containers and secured them in a safe location.

As an employer and a professional organization, promoting and prioritizing safety is the *right thing to do*. Not only should workers return home in the same condition in which they came to work, but a safe work environment boosts employee morale as well, which in turn, increases productivity, efficiency, and pride in one's workplace. There are fewer staff absences, less turnover and an improved quality of work.

A solid safety program can also help protect a company's ability to obtain work, as their safety record is evaluated by the *National Council on Compensation Insurance Inc.* by way of their workman's compensation claims. If the firm's *Experience Modification Rate (EMR)* is over 1.0, then the firm may be viewed as a high risk enterprise, limiting opportunities for work.

