

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Workplace Safety Tips

Worksite locations for plumbing contractors provide several potential hazards that can cause serious injury. FFVA Mutual Loss Control consultants can assist in evaluating workplace exposures and provide appropriate loss control recommendations.

Plumbing Contractor-Workplace Exposures

- Slips, trips, falls
- Cuts, lacerations
- Puncture wounds, burns
- Chemical and welding burns
- Back strains and sprains
- Eye injuries
- Electrocution

Developing A Loss Control Program

To successfully implement a workplace safety program, management must be willing to reduce and eliminate workplace injuries. There has to be a 100% commitment to establish an injury-free working environment.

Workplace Safety Tips

- Hallways, aisles, and walkways should be free of debris on new construction sites.
- Personal protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, kneepads, welding goggles, welding shields, and proper footwear should be required.
- Workers should be prohibited from wearing loose, torn, or frayed clothing while operating equipment with moving parts.
- Apprentices and less experienced employees should be paired with experienced plumbers until they are properly trained.
- All powered equipment should be inspected daily. Examples include backhoes, trenching machines, and welding equipment.
- All employees should be trained in proper lifting procedures.
- Lifting objects mechanically is always preferred over manual lifting whenever possible. Use of the "buddy system" to share the lifting task is another alternative.
- Workers should be required to wear welding goggles, hats, and gloves when performing small welding jobs.
- Welding shields should be worn for larger jobs in addition to hats and gloves.
- All workers should be trained in the safe handling, storage, cleanup, and disposal of chemicals, sealants, and adhesives.
- Material safety data sheets should be available to all workers (explaining chemical and job material exposures.)
- If excavating work is performed, utility companies should be contacted to locate any underground power lines.
- For larger worksites, an employee safety officer should be assigned to monitor and inspect the jobsites to identify potential hazards.
- All supervisors and foremen should be trained in First Aid and CPR to provide initial treatment when an accident occurs.

Warehouse Safety Tips

- Inspection of all welding equipment should occur monthly.
- All oxygen and acetylene tanks should be chained to the welding cart to avoid a potential for tank tip over and ignition of gases.
- All spare tanks should be chained to the wall with 30 feet separation between oxygen and acetylene tanks.
- Caps should be on all tanks to avoid possible leakage and potential for ignition of gases.
- All forklift operators must complete OSHA training.
- All welding, cutting or grinding operations should be isolated with welding curtains to avoid creating a spark and a potential ignition of gases.
- Any interior worksite should be properly ventilated to avoid gas build-up and potential ignition of gases.
- Paints, chemicals, and sealants should be properly labeled and stored in locked cabinets.
- Aisles should be open and free of debris or inventory to prevent collisions or slips and falls.

Fleet Safety Tips

- Only certified/authorized drivers should be permitted to drive company vehicles.
- Motor vehicle reports should be obtained from the fleet insurance carrier every six months.
- Authorized drivers should have an annual defensive driving course.
- Criteria for determining an adverse driving record should be developed such as number of points per year, DUI, and chargeable accidents.
- Vehicle inspections should be the responsibility of the driver. Documented inspection forms should be used.
- Maintenance department should have the authority to remove a vehicle from service until recommended repairs are made.
- Travel to jobsite in personal vehicles should be discouraged. Use of personal vehicles creates the potential for an automobile accident and a subsequent workers' compensation claim.

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