Best Safety Practices in the Philippine Construction

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Publication Date
2011
Introduction

The Safety Program is being developed during the early stages of a construction project particularly in the planning stage. This is mandatory in all construction projects as compliance to the requirements of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). This program serves as guideline in implementing safety in a particular project.

This program must be submitted to DOLE for their approval. Every construction company must ensure its overall implementation and regulation.

And to be sure that the program is being implemented, DOLE conducts surprise inspections in different construction sites.

Contents:

- Project Management System (Functions and responsibility)
- Accident Prevention Procedures (per work items)
- Housekeeping, Fire Prevention & Control
- Environmental Management
- Emergency Response Plan
- Security Program

Figure 1: Safety Program
Safety Practices:

1. Safety Induction/ Orientation:

   This Safety Induction/Orientation Program is being done prior to mobilization of new employees, both workers and staff, at site. The purpose of this orientation is to acquaint and familiarize employees with the company’s safety programs even before they engage themselves with the actual work. This would enable them to identify hazards and how they would prevent accidents from happening. This program includes:

   - General Safety
     a. Personal Protective Equipment
     b. Working at Heights
     c. Confined Spaces
     d. Emergency Responses
     e. Proper Housekeeping
     f. Reporting of injuries, etc.

   - Presentation of hazards and different accidents (in video format)

   - Job Hazard Analysis

   - Do’s and Don’t’s in construction
2. **Safety Planning:**

   a. **Job Safety Analysis**

      JSA is being done on a daily basis. During the toolbox meeting, the Foreman or Supervisor discusses with the workers the hazards present in their workplace. These hazards may vary depending on the activity and the environment they will be working at.

   b. **Job Hazard Risk Assessment**

      JHRA on the other hand is being done at the start of the project. This assessment discusses the hazards present in the project as a whole. It presents different measures on how to control the risks involved in different construction activity.

   c. **Tool Box Meeting**

      Toolbox Meeting is done in a weekly and daily basis. Every day, a tool box meeting is conducted in order to remind the workers and staffs of the safety practices they should observe in doing their specific tasks for that day.

      Aside from this, a weekly toolbox meeting is also being held, mostly during Mondays, to discuss relevant safety topics. The Safety Department gives topics to the assigned staffs which they will discuss on their assigned date. Also, during this weekly toolbox meeting, health personnel/nurse discusses some topics related to health like diseases workers may acquire in construction like dengue, hepatitis, skin diseases, dehydration, etc.

   d. **Safety Meeting with the Subcontractors**

      Subcontractors also have their own Safety Officers. And to be able for them to align their safety programs with that of the company and to ensure their compliance, a safety coordination meeting with the subcontractors is being held every week.

3. **Safety Monitoring:**

   a. **Safety Inspection Report**

      This report is being prepared by the contractor’s safety department. This is an internal monitoring whether safety is being implemented.

   b. **Safety Walkthrough**

      Every week, a safety walkthrough is being done to identify hazards and any unsafe acts and conditions that may be present at site. They need to conduct this kind of inspection in order to correct any violations on safety as the project progresses.
c. Safety Audit

This is a company-wide audit in which the mother unit of all safety departments conducts an audit in all of the company’s projects. This result of this audit is being reported directly not to the project manager, but to the executive offices, particularly the president of the company.

d. Third Party Audit (Client, DOLE, etc.)

Clients and DOLE may also conduct its independent safety audit in their respective projects.

4. Setting of Safety Objective:

a. Zero Accident and Zero Restricted Work

In order to attain their objectives, they conduct an Objective Monitoring for them to assess whether they are performing well when it comes to implementing safety in the project.
5. Giving Awards and Incentives

Every project has its own way of rewarding its employees whenever they work safely as represented by number of man hours they worked without lost time incidents. These awards and incentives are being given to motivate the employees to exert more effort in working safely and attaining 1M safe man hours or more. Awards and incentives may be in the form of:

a. Plaques and certificates
b. Gift Checks
c. Freebies: Mugs, Shirts and Jackets

*Figure 4: Safety Awards & Incentives*
OTHER SAFETY PRACTICES:

1. Safety Signages

Figure 5: Safety Signages
2. Scaffolding Safety
3. Safety Canopy

![Figure 7: Safety Canopy](image)

4. Safety Nets

![Figure 8: Safety Nets](image)
5. Personal Protective Equipment

Figure 9: Personal Protective Equipment
6. Fall Protection System

![Image of fall protection system]

*Figure 10: Fall Protection System*

7. Tower Crane Foundation

![Image of tower crane foundation]

*Figure 11: Tower Crane Foundation*
8. **Tools and Equipment Inspection Tag**

![Figure 12: Tools & Equipment Inspection Tag](image12)

9. **Electric Blower**

![Figure 13: Electric Blower](image13)
10. Proper & Adequate Lighting

![Figure 14: Proper & Adequate Lighting](image)

11. Full Shoring

![Figure 15: Full Shoring](image)
12. Proper Storage of Fuel Tanks

![Figure 16: Proper Storage of Fuel tank](image)

13. Proper Housekeeping

![Figure 17: Proper Housekeeping](image)
14. Keeping all Tools in place

![Figure 18: Keeping all tools in place](image)

15. Lifting Safety

![Figure 17: Lifting Safety](image)
16. Zero Accident Olympics

![Zero Accident Olympics](image)

*Figure 18: Zero Accident Olympics*

17. Environment Protection

![Environment Protection](image)

*Figure 19: Environment Protection*
REFERENCES


