



SITE SAFETY MEETING - TOOL BOX TALK

Safe Use of Lasers in Construction

The construction industry uses lasers for many applications. Lasers may be a concern to people who do not understand the effects and the level of power in the beam.

In construction, the laser is used primarily as a leveling device. It may be set up to indicate elevation, direction, or both. A laser used for this purpose will probably be a Class 1 laser, which is generally considered incapable of producing damaging levels of laser emission. In its regulation for Non-ionizing Radiation (29 CFR 1926.54), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides the standard for safe laser use.

All lasers used in construction are covered by this standard. However, OSHA recognizes that the degree of hazard associated with low power lasers used in construction is relatively low and that Class 1 lasers are generally not hazardous. Here are some good operating guidelines:



Safety Rules for Class 1 Lasers in Construction

- ⇒ Only qualified and trained people should set up, operate, or adjust the laser.
- ⇒ The operator must be in the area and have proof of qualifications on his or her person.
- ⇒ The laser beam should be set up over the heads of people in the area, when possible.
- ⇒ Never direct the laser beam at people.
- ⇒ When working with lasers, use your head for thinking, not as a laser target.
- ⇒ The laser operating area should be posted with laser warning placards.
- ⇒ The laser should be capped or shut off when not in use.
- ⇒ Use only mechanical or electronic means for laser beam detectors.
- ⇒ Avoid using lasers in heavy dust, snow, rain, or fog conditions.
- ⇒ The laser must have the maximum beam output tag attached.

For more information the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides the standard for safe laser use. Refer OSHA regulation for Non-ionizing Radiation (29 CFR 1926.54),

Questions to start discussion

1. Who is allowed to set-up, operate and adjust a laser?
2. What are some of the things you should not do when working with or around construction lasers?
3. What should you do with a laser that is not in use?
4. In what conditions should you avoid using lasers?
5. What should be posted when a laser is in use?
6. Where can you find out more on the safe operation of a laser?

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Meeting Notes:

Employee Comments / Concerns: _____

Other Safety issues to be addressed on the job: _____

Training Record: Date: _____ Jobsite: _____ By: _____ Title: _____

Employee Name	Emp #	Signature	Employee Name	Emp #	Signature
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Tool Box Talks are employee safety meetings designed to serve as 15 minute on-site training sessions focused on key topics relative to your work.

Site superintendents or foremen are responsible for holding meetings each week usually during a morning break. This important segment of your general safety program encourages open discussion on the topic of the week and allows employees to share their experiences about accidents and safe or unsafe work practices. Recordkeeping is mandatory and all involved must sign off on each session.

Topics for your company could include: electrical safety, excavation and trenching safety, fall protection, scaffold safety, stairway and ladder safety, hazard communication, fire safety, personal protective equipment, tool safety, materials handling, etc.

Sample Tool Box Talks are provided compliments of the Safety Committee of the Hartford County Homebuilders Association. For more information on Tool Box Talks contact The HBA office 860 563-4212. *Tool Box Safety Talks* can be purchased from the National Association of Homebuilders 1-800 368-5242, www.nahb.com or may be available through your business insurance provider.

BUILD SAFELY – THINK SAFETY