

# PEDESTRIAN/VEHICLE SAFETY- TRAFFIC CONTROL

Cal-OSHA reports that in 2015 alone, 4,836 construction workers were killed on the job, an average of more than 93 per week, or more than 13 deaths every day. On-site workers are not the only individuals at risk of a catastrophic injury or fatality, however. One law firm estimates that upwards of **100 pedestrians** are killed each year in the United States due to accidents occurring at construction sites, and many more are seriously injured. The firm reports that most pedestrian



construction accidents occur when a bystander is struck by a falling object, or by a construction vehicle such as a crane or truck.

The possibility of a pedestrian bystander being the victim of a construction site injury is complicated when the pedestrian is a senior citizen or an individual who has a disability such as vision or hearing loss, or a mobility issue that make navigating potentially hazardous conditions that much more difficult.



## Considerations for Pedestrians

### Separation/Distance

One of the biggest hazards to pedestrians traveling near a construction zone on foot is the danger of falling debris, such as nails, tools, construction materials, or even scaffolding. One of the most effective ways to protect pedestrians from falling debris is to separate them from the construction site. Have them walk on the opposite side of the street as the construction project to maintain the greatest possible distance.

## 2018 National Work Zone Fatal Crashes & Fatalities



### Stay Inside of Channelizing Devices

In addition to barriers intended to keep pedestrians out of construction zones, depending on the location of the project and its proximity to traffic, a construction area may also utilize channelizing devices or crash-worthy barriers that protect pedestrians from traffic. If such devices are detected, do not attempt to enter into the road with traffic to avoid pedestrians or expedite your



commute, especially if you suffer from a mobility or hearing impairment.

### Be Aware of the Risks of Falling Debris

Understandably, the disabled need to be extra cautious. If you are someone with a vision, hearing, or mobility impairment and live near a construction site, or if commuting past an ongoing project is unavoidable, consider investing in a hard hat as an added safety precaution.

### Be Aware of Uneven Surfaces

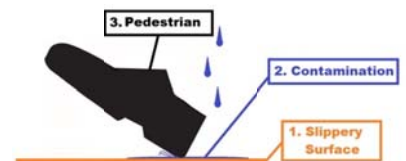


Construction projects often require the re-routing of pedestrian traffic. Sometimes, detour pathways are created that require pedestrians to traverse roads and surfaces that are unpaved or uneven. There could even be areas where the sidewalk or road has been broken, cracked, or partially removed, resulting in an uneven surface

that may be slippery with dirt or dust. Visually impaired individuals should take extra precautions through this area to detect changes in the surface they are about to encounter.

### Watch for Slippery Surfaces

Another primary factor that could cause construction area-related trips or falls are slippery, or muddy surfaces. Water is often used during construction projects for a variety of purposes. Whether the construction is taking place indoors or outdoors, watch not only for surfaces that appear to be slippery but other indicators of [water](#) use. Such indicators may include clearly marked “slippery surface” warning signs, or the presences of pipes or hoses. Seniors and those with mobility issues should proceed through these areas slowly, and with assistance whenever possible.



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### Make Sure Equipment Operators Can See The Pedestrians

Large vehicles and heavy earthmoving equipment including excavators, wheel loaders, and dozers used in construction zones could pose safety hazards to pedestrians. The contractor should ensure that operators are always working safely, have adequate training and if there are blind spots then spotters should be employed.

## Construction Waste and Debris

Make sure the contractor immediately removes waste or debris from any area that pedestrians may be present.

## Utilize Temporary Curb Ramps

Construction areas are encouraged to install temporary curb ramps to assist the disabled to navigate the area. These ramps should not be unsteady, wobbly or poorly constructed.

