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Version 21 Feb 2023	Accountabilities Framework Level 1: Manager Occupational Safety and Health Level 2: Manager Hazards and OSH Incidents
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1 Purpose

To ensure Water Corporation construction sites, and the activities conducted at the construction site, do not adversely affect the safety and health of the public.

2 Scope

This standard applies to Water Corporation construction sites. This includes contractors and subcontractors.

Note: Changes to these guidelines must be risk assessed and any proposed changes approved by the contract manager as per the [Health Safety and Environment \(HSE\) requirements for contractors](#).

3 Standard – Public safety at construction sites

3.1 Risk assessment

Managers must conduct a risk assessment for work at sites. The risk assessment must detail the overall risks and hazards, along with public exposure, and consider:

- location (i.e., proximity to urban areas, schools)
- specific hazards likely to be encountered.

Managers must establish a clear strategy to manage risks by preventing unauthorised entry within site boundaries by fencing, signs and other means.

Where the above is not practical (or not fully reliable), make the site safe for public access by:

- workers located at hazardous locations tasked to ensure public safety
- signs/fences around hazards within the site
- securing equipment, materials and covering of holes and openings
- managing authorised visitors at site.

3.2 Key considerations

Construction activities are frequently done in areas accessible to the public. Children, residents and other members of the public are often attracted to construction activities. We have a responsibility to prevent injury at sites, including prohibiting access by the public.

The likelihood of an injury to the public is influenced by factors including:

- proximity of the works (e.g., adjacent residences, shopping centres)
- proximity to children or others with little awareness of hazards (e.g., adjacent schools, playgrounds)
- number and nature of hazards
- duration of the work
- existing perimeter fencing or other security features.

Workers and contractors must use a risk assessment to determine hazards for construction work.

Hazards include, but are not limited to:

- open excavations
- holes and openings
- falls from height
- welding flash
- machinery and vehicles
- dust
- access to:
 - hazardous substances
 - flammable materials
 - plant and equipment
- operation of or exposure to equipment such as mobile plant, nail guns, lasers
- disposal of waste (e.g., hazardous substances containers, asbestos cement).

Every day prior to the completion of work, make construction sites safe by:

- backfilling excavations
- installing bunting/fencing around open excavations, boring pits and similar structures
- securing plant and materials
- covering holes
- installing warning signs
- locking access gates (fenced sites)
- using a security guard where necessary.

Construction sites are unique with site specific risks and hazards. A guide for typical controls for 'low' and 'high' public risk areas and hazards is provided in [Appendix A](#). The guide should not be taken as an exhaustive list of controls.

3.2.1 General

Construction managers must use a work health and safety management plan and site traffic management plan to detail the control measures for managing the risk associated with the public. Contractors may be required to address the precautions for minimising public interactions and controlling site access in the tender process.

Control measures and their effectiveness must be reviewed on an ongoing basis, where:

- unauthorised persons are detected on site or
- evidence to suggest unauthorised persons have entered the site outside work hours.

Note: *Traffic on public roads to be managed as per the Main Roads WA Traffic Management for Works on Roads Code of Practice, AS1742.3 and Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management. These public safety guidelines do not address risks to livestock or other animals, which may require additional or alternative precautions at some construction sites.*

3.2.2 Fencing, barricading and signage

Construction manager must:

- fence sites, where practical
- warn of dangers associated with construction sites using signage
- erect fencing or similar physical barriers around construction work where there is a risk from debris or other objects causing injury to persons not on the site
- erect welding screens around welding locations
- install a gantry to protect public where there is a risk of objects falling from the site (e.g., over pedestrian walkways).

3.2.3 Vehicles and pedestrian access

Vehicles and pedestrian access in public areas must be managed as per the traffic management plan.

3.2.4 Authorised visitors

Authorised members of the public and visitors accessing the site must comply with site entry signage and requirements specified in the site induction.

4 Records

Records must be stored as per table below.

Record	To be saved by	Nexus folder path / location
Public safety risk assessment (may be part of Safety management plan, Traffic management plan or Safe job plan).	Construction manager	Project risk files

5 Definitions

Term	Description
Construction site	A workplace where construction is carried out and includes any adjoining area where plant or materials used in connection with that work are kept and over which the main contractor has control for the purpose of doing work.
Public	Within this Standard, means a resident, bystander, pedestrian or other person in the immediate area of the construction site (not employed, contracted or subcontracted in connection with the construction works).

6 References

Document type	Title
Manual (HSE)	Health Safety and Environment (HSE) requirements for contractors

Appendix A Precautions for public safety at construction sites

Hazard	AT 'LOW' PUBLIC RISK CONSTRUCTION SITES (Note 1)	
	During working hours	After working hours
General security for work site	Prevent access where practical. Visitors must report when on site and sightseers aren't permitted. Display warning signs for specific hazards.	Hazards made safe or site access prevented. Display reflective signs and lighting as necessary.
Excavation to 1m depth (Note 3)	Warn people by pennant (flagging) tape or better. Divert vehicles.	Fill excavation where practical, otherwise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> warn people with pennant tape or better divert vehicles.
Excavation deeper than 1m (Note 3)	1.8m rigid frame fence around excavation and divert traffic if pedestrians or vehicles may approach.	Fill excavation where practical, otherwise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.8m rigid frame fence around excavation divert vehicles if they may approach.
Structures with a fall risk greater than 1m	1.8m rigid frame fence at approaches and divert traffic if pedestrians or vehicles may approach while unattended.	1.8m rigid frame fence at approaches to structure.
Plant, chemicals etc. which may be hazardous	Secure if public may approach while unattended.	Secure to prevent access or operation.
Mobile plant in operation	Plant fitted with flashing lights and reversing beepers.	N/A

Hazard	AT 'HIGH' PUBLIC RISK CONSTRUCTION SITES (Note 2)	
	During working hours	After working hours
General security for work site	Strictly control access. Where practical install perimeter fencing around the site or major hazards. Note: Fencing may be specified as a condition of contract. Visitors must report on site and sightseers aren't permitted. Display warning signs for specific hazards. Erect welding screens where there may be exposure to welding hazards and other allied processes.	Hazards made safe or access prevented by. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> installing perimeter fencing where practical installing rigid frame fencing around individual hazards displaying reflective signs and lighting providing distinct safe passage routes for pedestrians and traffic.
Excavation to 1m depth (Note 3)	1.8m rigid frame fence if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> site does not have perimeter fencing excavation is unattended. 	Fill excavation where practical. If not filled install 1.8m rigid frame fencing.

Hazard	AT 'HIGH' PUBLIC RISK CONSTRUCTION SITES (Note 2)	
	During working hours	After working hours
Excavation deeper than 1m (Note 3 and 4)	Provide perimeter fencing to the site or fit 1.8m rigid frame fence around unattended excavations.	Fill excavation where practical. If not filled install 1.8m rigid frame fencing.
Structures with a fall risk greater than 1m	1.8m rigid frame fence at approaches to structure. Divert traffic if site is unfenced and pedestrians or vehicles may approach while the structure is unattended.	1.8m rigid frame fence at approaches to structure and divert traffic.
Plant, chemicals etc. which may be hazardous	Secure if public may approach while unattended.	Secured to prevent public access or operation.
Mobile plant in operation	Plant to be fitted with flashing lights and reversing beepers.	N/A

NOTE 1: 'Low public risk construction sites' are those construction sites that are located where few of the public (as pedestrians or traffic) would be expected to approach, for example:

- rural areas, not adjacent to housing or roads, or
- within premises already secured with existing rigid perimeter fencing of minimum 1.8m high.

NOTE 2: 'High public risk construction sites' are where the public (as pedestrians or traffic) would be expected to approach.

NOTE 3: The guidelines may be relaxed for very flat-sided excavations, if a specific risk assessment indicates lesser controls will be sufficient.

NOTE 4: Where referenced in this table, 'perimeter fencing' to be chain mesh security fencing in a 1.8m high rigid frame (or equivalent). The gap between the ground and base of fence panels should not exceed 200mm. Where they do dog bars or other equipment that achieves the same outcome (e.g., upside down fence panel) must be used. Horizontal gaps between fence panels must not exceed 75mm.