

# Safety Corner

## Construction Process: How Pre-Planning Affects Safety

Pre-planning is essential before construction processes begin. Pre-planning can impact profit and be a powerful safety tool. Plans must discuss worker execution plans in the most practical and efficient ways to provide an injury-free workplace.

The Construction Industry Institute (CII) cites a study that identified pre-project/pre-task planning as the most powerful tool available for ensuring safe operations.

As a CII member, Burns & McDonnell has established a safety program for its construction projects that requires pre-planning analysis before work begins on the construction site each day. Hazards are identified, equipment needs are evaluated, risks are mitigated and all personnel sign off on the plan for the work. Daily pre-task

analysis forms summarize the plan for working safely, utilizing the procedures defined by the job in the overall activity hazard analysis. These guides ensure compliance with safety regulations as well as Burns & McDonnell and client policies and procedures.

Pre-planning occurs at several key junctures, according to an article in an American Society of Safety Engineers newsletter by Peter Furst of Liberty Mutual Group:

- The bid stage
- At job mobilization
- During the preoperational stage/by job phase
- When special operations are required
- For specific work tasks

Involving key people in the process is critical. Every pre-planning session should include

a minimum of the estimator, the safety director or safety coordinator, the project manager, a job site superintendent and a loss prevention consultant, according to Furst.

On Burns & McDonnell construction projects, the pre-operational planning meeting yields an action plan to implement continuous improvement through audits and inspections. The action plan is generated from project plans, specifications and risk analysis. As a critical component of our standard operating procedures, this planning process continues to provide great results to our clients, such as an ongoing fractionator project for Oneok in Bushton, Kan., where more than 500,000 work hours were completed without a recordable injury.

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