

# Construction Season Start-up Tips

Here's a few things to review before starting construction work this spring:

## Safety Program:

- Review, sign & date all your policies.
- Ensure you have a trained, functioning OH&S Committee or Worker Health & Safety Representative as required.
- Orient new employees to the company's safety program.
- Ensure that there are first aiders on all sites and that workers know who these people are.
- Review training records of all employees to ensure that training is current. Fall protection, confined space entry, power line hazards, trenching and excavating, transportation of dangerous goods, and first aid should be renewed every three years.
- Refresh workers' awareness of company rules, personal protective equipment requirements, and work site hazards.
- Update Safety Data Sheets for controlled products used in the workplace and review them with employees.
- Hold a pre-construction meeting with all staff and sub-contractors.



## Tools and Equipment:

- Ensure that all personal protective equipment (lifelines, rope grabs, harnesses, respirators, work boots, hard hats) is inspected & replaced according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Ensure that the manufacturer's instructions, operators' manuals, and maintenance logs are available for all equipment.
- Train workers who operate power tools, forklifts, scissors lifts and other types of lifting equipment.
- Inspect all extension cords for missing grounds, frayed wires, etc.
- Have workers' conduct pre-use equipment and vehicle inspections.
- Inspect small tools and equipment and repair or replace as necessary.
- Make sure scaffolds (frame and pump-jack) are set-up on stable ground and according to the manufacturers' instructions.
- Have designated spotters to guide any equipment that is backing-up.

## Work Environment:

- Establish a housekeeping system to keep sites free of slipping and tripping hazards.
- Beware of temperature changes that can result in water or ice hazards.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters when using electrical equipment outside or in wet conditions.
- With changes in temperature and weather it is important to beware of soil instability in and around excavations and trenches. Trenches should be properly sloped or fitted with a trench box.



## Workers:

- Make sure that you are aware of the location of powerlines and other power sources. Dial before you dig.
- Review emergency procedures.
- Know the location of first aid kits and fire extinguishers.
- Beware of blind spots associated with heavy equipment. Make eye contact with equipment operators before moving.
- Report hazards or dangerous situations to your immediate supervisor.
- Do exercises before you start work and use proper ergonomic techniques to reduce injury and body strain.

*This safety reminder brought to you by:*

