



## PREVENTING ACCIDENTS TO CHILDREN & PUBLIC

Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 Bluevale Structures Ltd will conduct their undertaking so as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that people not in their employment, including members of the public and children, are not exposed to risks to their health or safety.

Historically, children are most at risk of injury from the following activities:

- falling through openings such as manholes, stairwells or into excavations, pits, etc
- riding on mobile plant (e.g. dumper trucks) which runs out of control
- being hit by mobile plant while playing near it
- falling from or being hit by builders' hoists
- climbing on to stacks of material which then collapse
- playing with manhole rings and cable drums which run away and roll over the children
- tunnelling into piled sand, which is undermined and collapses onto the tunnels, suffocating them
- climbing on to and then falling from scaffolds or from/through roofs or other elevated areas.

Where sites are located close to schools, housing estates etc, it will be useful to liaise with school heads, tenant's associations and so on to discuss ways in which children can be informed of the dangers and be discouraged from trespassing. For example, visits to schools by contractors to talk to the children and show them a suitable film have proved effective in reducing accidents and vandalism on site. The local police force may be prepared to participate in similar activities.

### **Perimeter Fencing**

At all construction sites where it is reasonably practicable, a fence should be erected enclosing all construction activities. In assessing whether erecting a fence is reasonably practicable, site occupiers should weigh the degree of risk against the difficulty and cost of erection and maintenance. Unless the risk is insignificant when compared to the cost etc, a fence should be erected. Given the hazards of construction sites and that it is children who are at risk, the degree of risk is high for most sites. Thus, for example, any demolition site, new-build, redevelopment or major refurbishment should be fenced where these sites are located in, or near, urban areas. Minor refurbishment and other jobs of short duration (even less than 24 hours) may have to be fenced, depending on the nature of the risk and the location of the site.

The fence should not be less than 2 m high and, since it should not be capable of being easily climbed, it should be either close-boarded or covered with mesh not exceeding 30 mm in size. Support poles should be firmly anchored.

Access openings should be gated and kept locked when the site is occupied. A watch on the gates should be kept when they are open. Fencing should be properly maintained, and materials should not be placed or stacked near the fence in a way which provides easily climbed access over the fence. Suitable warning notices should be fixed to the fencing.

### **Vehicles and Plant**

All vehicles and plant with moving parts, e.g. hoists, should be effectively immobilized when left unattended. If possible, such equipment should be locked in a separate enclosure when the site is unoccupied.

### **Electricity and other Energy Sources**

At the end of work for the day, electrical supplies to all equipment which does not need to be energised when the site is unoccupied should be locked off or switched off at isolators in a locked building or enclosure. Supplies to equipment, which is kept energised, e.g. floodlights, pumps, etc should be installed in such a way that access to live conductors is not possible except by the use of tools. Additional protection such as wire cages, may be needed for light fittings where they are accessible, to prevent damage and contact with live parts.

Gas supplies should be similarly isolated or protected and cylinders of compressed gases of any kind should be placed in a locked, ventilated enclosure unless they are of such a size, so located or secured that they cannot be easily moved, or the valves opened without the use of special tools. Special tools for electrical or gas supplies should be kept under lock and key when the site is unattended.

Tanks containing fuel (e.g. diesel for site plant) should be locked-off at the end of the working day to prevent unauthorised release of their contents.

Fires used to burn timber and other scrap on demolition sites should be extinguished before the site is vacated at the end of the working day.

### **Storage of Hazardous Materials**

Materials which are flammable, toxic or present some other hazard (e.g. cartridges for fixing tools) should also be locked away at the end of the working day.

Signature:  ..... Date: 2.10.21 .....

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