

# Critical Safety Practices

Together we ensure safety

# Why Critical Safety Practices?

- Over the past 10 years, **58 lives have been lost** across the construction sector.
- The **most serious accidents repeatedly involve the same hazards**: falls, lifting operations, machinery and vehicles, and uncontrolled energy release.
- That is why the Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries (RT) has created, together with its member companies, **five Critical Safety Practices**.
- These are not separate rules, but **concrete ways of working** for planning, executing and supervising work.
- When work is planned, hazards are identified and safety is ensured, **the most serious accidents can be prevented**.



# Critical Safety Practices



**Prevent falls**



**Control lifting**



**Isolate energy**



**Control traffic and machinery**



**Avoid the line of fire**



**Make sure the work is safe before you start.**

# Critical Safety Practices



## **Prevent falls**

*Identify and eliminate fall hazards or control them with technical measures.*



## **Control lifting**

*Plan and carry out lifting operations safely.*



## **Isolate energy**

*Isolate energy sources at the site before maintenance, repair or installation work.*



## **Control traffic and machinery**

*Ensure safe movement on site and operate machinery and vehicles in a controlled manner.*



## **Avoid the line of fire**

*Identify and mark off hazard zones where people may be crushed, struck by loads or buried.*

# Prevent falls

Identify and eliminate fall hazards or control them with technical measures.

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- Identify tasks and work phases involving fall hazards and eliminate the hazard as the first priority.
  - If the fall hazard cannot be eliminated, control it with structural or technical solutions – personal protective equipment is the last resort.
- Prevent objects and tools from falling.
- Ensure that everyone knows how to use personal protective equipment correctly.



## My responsibility

- ✓ I identify tasks with fall hazards and avoid working at height whenever possible.
- ✓ I use fall protection equipment correctly and inspect it before starting work.
- ✓ I stop unsafe work – it is my right and my duty.

# Control lifting

Plan and carry out lifting operations safely.

## Together we ensure safety

- Identify hazards and plan lifting operations and material transfers.
  - Select equipment with sufficient capacity and the correct lifting accessories and verify their condition.
  - Also take into account other structures, machinery and equipment in the work area to avoid collisions.
- Define and mark off the hazard zone for lifting operations.
- Ensure effective communication between all parties involved in the lifting operation.



## My responsibility

- ✓ I carry out lifting operations safely and have the required competence and authorization.
- ✓ I use only suitable and inspected equipment for lifting.
- ✓ I make sure the load is secured correctly and remains under control.
- ✓ I stay clear of suspended loads.
- ✓ I stop unsafe work – it is my right and my duty.

# Isolate energy

Isolate energy sources at the site before maintenance, repair or installation work.

## Together we ensure safety

- Identify all energy sources at the work site – electricity, hydraulics, compressed air and other stored energy.
  - Account for unexpected start-ups and equipment failures.
  - Plan the isolation and lockout of energy sources and the safe release of stored energy.
- Isolate machines and equipment from all energy sources before starting work.
- Ensure that stored energy in machines or equipment is released safely.



## My responsibility

- ✓ I identify the energy sources at the site before starting work.
- ✓ I make sure that no machine or equipment can start up accidentally.
- ✓ I stop unsafe work – it is my right and my duty.

# Control traffic and machinery

Ensure safe movement on site and operate machinery and vehicles in a controlled manner.

## Together we ensure safety

- Plan traffic arrangements.
  - Separate pedestrians from vehicle traffic.
  - Mark off and signpost hazard zones and routes and keep markings up to date.
  - Ensure traffic control and guidance on site.
- Ensure that machinery is always used for its intended purpose in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that machinery is operated only by competent and authorized persons.
- Ensure that machinery is properly maintained and inspected.



## My responsibility

- ✓ I follow marked routes and respect exclusion zones.
- ✓ When approaching a vehicle, I make eye contact with the operator.
- ✓ I only operate vehicles and machinery that are fit for purpose and for which I hold the required authorization and competence.
- ✓ I stop unsafe work – it is my right and my duty.

# Avoid the line of fire

Identify and mark off hazard zones where people may be crushed, struck by loads or buried.

## Together we ensure safety

- Identify hazard zones where people may be crushed, buried, or struck by moving loads, elements, machinery, falling objects or energy release.
  - Plan and mark off hazard zones before work begins.
  - Prevent people from being present in hazardous areas.
  - Keep signs and boundaries up to date.
- Minimise overlapping work phases.
- Ensure that only people carrying out the specific task work in marked hazard zones.



## My responsibility

- ✓ I stay clear of hazardous work areas.
- ✓ I stay aware of the work being carried out around me, any changes to it, and the hazards it creates.
- ✓ I stop unsafe work – it is my right and my duty.

**Thank you!**