

SAFETY SHOOTER

The Changing Job Site



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We all know job-site conditions can undergo constant changes. The best safety tip for these changing job-site conditions is to check all job sites before crews are dispatched. This inspection will take a little time and may be a little inconvenient, but after the inspection you will have an understanding of what potential hazards are present for your workers and equipment and what

needs to be corrected before your team arrives on the job.

Take a moment to evaluate the conditions shown in the photos which follow.

Figure #1

Is this a good example of a clean job site before shotcrete crews are dispatched?



Figure #2

Is this a safe job site after an overnight rain storm? Have the workers done a sufficient job of cleaning up? This previously clean job site has just become a major safety risk for all trades on site. The mud and water impair the access for safe material handling and proper footing. What electrical hazards now exist?



Figure #3

This also is now a high-risk scaffolding job. The muddy job-site conditions lead to very poor footing. In addition, the staging area for the shotcrete equipment also has become hazardous due to heavy rain and mud.



Figure #4

Access around the complete job site is in need of a good drying-out and a new base rock road for safe access. On one hand, general contractors or construction managers will say this cannot be accomplished due to schedule and costs. In the next breath they will tell you how committed they are to safety. At all construction sites the weather plays an important part in influencing safe working conditions. The environment changes day to day on site and job-site safety requirements need to be adjusted for changing conditions.

It is highly recommended that you inspect all your job sites before you schedule your crews and equipment. Once your crew is on the site and working, have your job-site representative report back on changing site conditions due to weather and the environment. If any special equipment is needed to deal with site conditions, it should go out with the crew when dispatched, thus eliminating special trips from the yard to the site.

Another important point to remember is that safe working conditions are directly connected to productivity. Generally speaking, a site that has safety problems will also not permit your crews and equipment to function efficiently.

Remember, it becomes the shotcrete contractor's responsibility to protect his/her crew on the site. In addition, the work of the shotcrete contractor must not create hazards for other trades. A little time and effort spent inspecting the job site prior to dispatching your crews will set the stage for safe and productive shotcreting.

