

Job Communication On Site

By Marcus H. von der Hofen

There are a lot of us that have been doing this stuff for what seems like forever. Regardless of our experience, if we do not communicate, we continue to hit the same road blocks. Simple exercises in on-the-job communication can help make your job safer and more productive.

1. Basic Procedure

Get together with the parties involved and go over your plan. You know your trade hands-down, but do you understand the other guys'? Define your requirements for the job and let the others (trades) know what you will be doing. Many times, frustrations can be avoided simply by talking before you get started. Equipment setup, hose routing, and rebound removal are a few of the things we do almost without thinking, but it's also the most frustrating when you have to do it twice. A simple walk-through helps avoid conflicts between trades and can make your life easier.

2. Safety

We are out there with many trades and they can't read your mind. They might not know they are in a bad spot and the same goes for you. We go through hours of safety training, pre-job hazard analysis, personal protective equipment use, paperwork, and on and on. I've seen far too many instances where by simply communicating to someone what they were going to do, an accident would not have occurred. Be courteous and professional and say something before you perform a task if it could affect others.

3. Complete Your Task or Else

How many times have you thought that someone else is going to do something and it doesn't happen? How many times have you gone to do something and couldn't get it done? Countless times? We all have the same problems but you can limit the effect they have by communication. Let people know when you can't do something and start the problem-solving early. If you see something that is going to cause an issue in the future, address it now. We all know concrete doesn't wait.

It's not easy out there in the field and it won't ever be. Far too many people underestimate the skill and dedication that it takes to be a professional constructor. Respect your trade and the others and let's knock out some great jobs and do it like it's meant to be.

Communication will help you get the job done!



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