

Top 10 construction industry risks >

Construction is one of the largest industry sectors in the UK, employing 3.1 million people or around 10% of the workforce. Though there have been significant improvements in recent years, construction is not without its risks.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reports that there are:

61,000

Non-fatal injuries to workers each year.

81,000

Workers suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing).

37

Construction workplace deaths on average per year.



2 Working at height

Falls from height are one of the main causes of workplace major injuries and deaths. Commonly, falls from ladders and through fragile roofs. Where work is being carried out at height, there is also a risk of falling objects, such as tools or materials hitting fellow workers or passers-by.



1 Escape of water

Both the frequency and the severity of escape of water incidents have increased in recent years. There can be many causes, from changes in temperature or water pressure, faulty fittings, to poor workmanship. In multi-storey or multi-occupancy buildings the risk of something going wrong can be multiplied due to the number of water outlets throughout the building and number of floors affected.



3 Fire

There are multiple fire risks on a construction site, including hot works, electrical faults, waste materials, use of portable heating or lighting, smoking on site, and even deliberate arson.



4 Theft and vandalism

Theft and vandalism are an ongoing issue, estimated to cost the construction industry over £800 million per year. When contractors are targeted by thieves, there's the cost of new equipment, plus hiring new equipment in the interim so that work isn't delayed.

5 Injuries involving plant and machinery

Construction plant and machinery is often being operated on ground which is muddy and uneven. There are risks of severe injury to the driver/operator and to the different parties on site, including contractors, subcontractors, banksmen and visitors.

6 Personal injury

Slips, trips and falls are a very common injury on construction sites, with several thousand reported each year. Around 1000 such injuries involve fractured bones or dislocated joints each year. Bending, carrying or lifting heavy or awkward loads can also lead to back pain and other injuries.



7 Third party property damage

Some construction projects may carry the risk of damage to a neighbouring property, or to buried services and local utilities such as gas or water pipes, or power cables. Damage to data cables or fibre optics, whilst not dangerous, can be very expensive losses.

8 Electrical risks

Construction activities can give rise to risk of electric shock, burns, and even death from unsafe use of equipment, overhead power lines and from contact with buried cables.



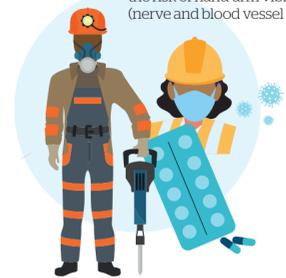
9 Flood

Sites are at risk of flooding which can arise from various sources including heavy rainfall, surface water, drainage and rivers.



10 Occupational disease and ill health

Some aspects of construction work carry the risk of exposure to dust, airborne fibres and other airborne hazardous substances that can damage the lungs when breathed in and could cause lung disease if not properly controlled. Exposure to materials such as cement and solvents pose a risk of causing skin problems such as dermatitis. Exposure to high levels of noise can cause hearing loss. And the repeated use of vibrating tools carries the risk of hand-arm vibration syndrome (nerve and blood vessel damage.)



Risk management

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Customers can also access a library of Risk Snapshot guides, guidance notes, toolkits and other risk management material, along with RoSPA accredited online health and safety e-learning.

You can read how QBE helps businesses to manage risk at

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Mental health and well being

Mental health issues are the single biggest cause of workdays lost in the UK, accounting for approximately 57%, and costing businesses up to £45 billion a year in lost revenues. To help businesses meet the mental health challenge, we have collaborated with renowned charity Mind and other trusted mental health providers to launch an organisational mental health self-assessment optimisation tool, unique in the insurance market.

Read more at

qbееurope.com/resilience/helping-organisations-address-mental-health/

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