

# SAFETY *GUIDE*



Environmental Health & Safety

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## CONTRACTOR SAFETY

Safety is a critical item for all projects for multiple reasons, including protecting the welfare of employees and providing a safe work environment. A dedicated commitment to safety by both a Stony Brook representative overseeing a project and the contractor helps to ensure project success, reinforces a strong safety culture and creates a positive public image.



### **Does my contractor have to work safely?**

Yes, the contractor is already mandated by law to comply with local, state, and federal regulations. To take advantage of this safety benefit, the Stony Brook representative should demand that the contractor document and implement the proper safety programs to protect the employees working on the jobsite. We have the absolute right to mandate that a quality safety program be an important part of the selected contractor's culture. The contract documents are a very effective tool in conveying safety requirements to the contractor.

### **How does a contractor safety program benefit Stony Brook?**

The process of preventing employee injury and illness itself makes the contractor more efficient and effective with projects. The pressure to cut corners, skimp on materials, reduce quality, or rush to get the project completed is significantly reduced through compliance to a good jobsite-safety program.

There are many components of a good safety program, depending on the type of project that is undertaken. To be effective, most programs should have the following components...

- ***Pre-project planning*** - the process of getting the leadership team together to discuss how the project will be completed.
- ***Pre-task planning*** - engaging the employees who are going to do the work. Conducting the pre-task planning generates a tremendous amount of critical information.
- ***Setting and monitoring safety goals***

### **How to find a contractor with a good safety culture?**

The best way to determine if a contractor has a good safety program is to look at the contractor's past safety history (experience modification rate). Review the following for the past 3 years: OSHA Recordable Frequency Rates, Lost Work Day Case Rate, and the Lost Work Day Rate. Also be sure to review the contractor's current safety history and obtain references from past clients.