

Building the Education Revolution and the management of Occupational Health and Safety

Building the Education Revolution construction activity will be increasing significantly over the coming months as more Primary Schools for the 21st Century projects begin on site and National School Pride projects near completion.

It is important that everyone involved in construction projects on school sites prioritise the management of occupational health and safety issues and ensure that our schools remain safe for all staff, students and visitors.

If you require further information or specific assistance please contact your regional [Occupational Health and Safety Liaison Manager](#). Contact details can be found at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/detoh_s/adminandmanage/ohands/support/regohslstv3.pdf

Principals will need to ensure the following:

- Work with contractors to address site specific safety issues. Contractors include the Department of Administration, Services and Technology (formerly the Department of Commerce), the Asset Management Units and the Managing Contractors and their subcontractors.
- Provide the contractor with a site-specific induction providing information on local issues that can impact on safety. The Department of Education and Training's [guidance on engaging contractors](#) can be found at: https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/detoh_s/adminandmanage/ohands/safeworklearn/student_visitor/contractors/contract_orvww2.pdf
- Make sure that staff, students, parents and visitors are aware of the safety procedures that have been put in place whilst works are being undertaken including any changes to access and egress or restricted areas.
- Work with contractors to jointly review safety management strategies on a regular basis, ensuring that consultation is ongoing.
- Monitor the contractor's performance and raise any concerns directly with the relevant contractor as soon as they arise.
- If appropriate, review existing school risk management plans, such as the School's [Vehicles on School Grounds Plan](#), to ensure that they address any changes in activity due to construction work.
- Report any incidents in accordance with both DET and WorkCover NSW requirements, which are outlined on the [DET Intranet site](#).
- Have interim appropriate arrangements in place .e.g. where emergency evacuation routes are affected by construction work.

DET Occupational Health and Safety Directorate, October 2009.