
Field Inspection Safety Requirements For All Building Permits

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Purpose

This bulletin is to provide an outline for minimum site safety standards that are to be provided by the owner and or contractor and when a site inspection can be refused by the Building Official for unsafe conditions.

Background

There have been many occasions where occupational safety has been compromised for Building Officials performing on-site reviews. Hazards, such as deep excavations, messy work areas, and open pits or stairways, have led to potential safety hazards for City staff. There have also been instances where City staff have been exposed to hazardous conditions, such as asbestos, excessive dust or unsafe use of equipment.

Implementation

Owners and contractors shall adhere to the general responsibilities for safety and health, as administered under WorkSafeBC.

See WorkSafeBC link: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/industries/construction>

If a potential hazard exists, the Building Official shall either request that the activity or situation be corrected immediately to perform the review or refuse to perform inspections until such time that it can be shown it is safe to do so.

Some examples include:

- The job site is messy and has tripping hazards, is poorly lit, has unsecured stored material, has exposed vertical rebar, and/or has high levels of dust
- Excavations over 1.2 m in depth and not back-sloped, shored, or reviewed by a geotechnical engineer
- Improper construction of stairs/guards, ramps, or platforms
- Openings in floors or roofs not secured/marked or protected by guards
- Unsafe storage of flammable liquids or use of machinery
- Exposed live electrical
- Overhead work, such as roofing
- Renovation or demolition work that could potentially expose Building Officials to hazardous materials may require a hazard assessment and abatement to be completed prior to entry by the Building Official
- Working machinery on site (i.e. trucks, excavators, etc.)

Have questions? We're here to help. Please contact the Building Inspection Section at 250-828-3554 or building@kamloops.ca for more information.