



Special award winner

Applying global health and safety systems at local level

Award
Best occupational health initiative 2014

Winner
Lend Lease

"By looking at the practical issues that affect their sites, Lead Lease found that their global standards are as applicable to residential sites as much as to major construction projects."

What

Applying global minimum requirements to residential construction sites

As a global business with local operations, Lend Lease has established Global Minimum Requirements (GMR's) which set out the organisation's minimum environment, health and safety standards to control risks associated with construction operations.

Why

Large construction or small residential site - the health issues are the same

By looking at the practical issues that affect their sites, Lend Lease found that their global standards are as applicable to residential housing sites as much as to their major construction projects. In applying the same standards they've managed to create a level of consistency across all their operations globally.

How

Identify, evaluate and manage occupational health risks at design stage

Occupational health risks are identified/evaluated at pre-construction stage as part of the design process with a Risk &

Opportunity at Design (ROAD)

workshop. These workshops include the designers, construction teams and facility managers where risks and opportunities are identified as part of a brainstorming exercise by the team.

Lend Lease also established a health strategy in the form of a programme aimed at identifying the health baseline of their employees and implementing a series of interventions to assist in improving the long-term health of the workforce and supply chain.

Results

Applying the standards at a local level in Lymm, Cheshire

The Lend Lease Beechwood site in Lymm Cheshire is a traditional build site of 35 houses and flats. The site was awarded a Highly Commended in the 2014 NHBC Health and Safety Awards and provides an excellent example of how these global standards have been applied on a small site.

Free health checks

The site team engaged a local occupational nurse and provided free health checks to all workers on the site including the site and sales team. This was well received with a



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steady stream of ground workers, bricklayers and joiners attending their individual 30 minute health screening for musculoskeletal, respiratory and vibration white finger symptoms. Employees with occupational symptoms were referred to BUPA.

Manual handling

Manual handling was addressed with material loading bays strategically located to eliminate manual handling of lintels, blocks and stone. Pallet trucks were also provided for the transport of materials across concrete apartment floors. Large stone products were eliminated by the design team to avoid large sections and manual handling issues. Haki staircases replaced ladders on scaffolding to reduce the risk from manual handling.

Silica dust exposure

Silica dust issues were identified and overcome by specifying the use of

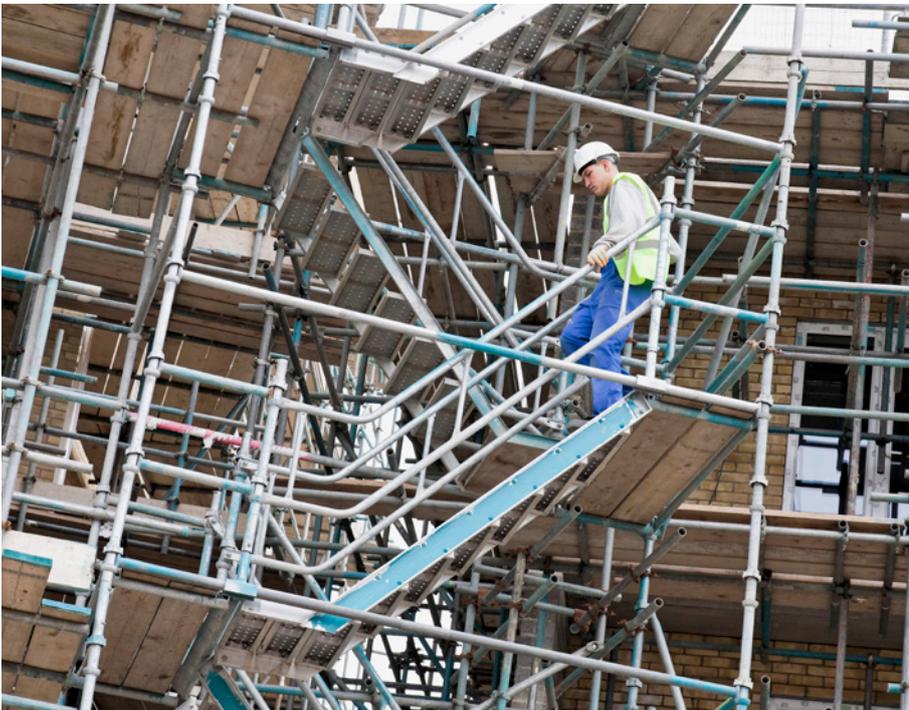
block splitters for use on the masonry instead of Stihl Saws, with the effect of reducing vibration, dust and noise. Exposure to wood dust was addressed by all planers, chop saws and sanders having a manufacturer's specific dust extraction system fitted to the equipment. Face Fit Tests for disposable masks were undertaken with the bricklayers and joiners accompanied by specific toolbox talks on dust. This was monitored by the in-house H&S team and audited on a quarterly basis to check compliance.

Mental Health First Aid

To support the Lend Lease initiative on Mental Health First Aid, the Site Manager attended a two day course to become one of the Lend Lease Mental Health at Work First Aiders. He now takes time out to talk to every new starter on the site and discusses the help/advice available to them regarding both occupational health and wellbeing.

Best practice basics

- Adapt ideas and initiatives from major contractors for use on much smaller sites.
- Evaluate the risks at design stage so that you can plan to avoid or manage them.
- Identify issues before they become serious by proactively carrying out health checks.
- Think about the position of loading bays to minimise manual handling.
- Consider the use of block splitters to reduce vibration, dust and noise.
- Carry out face fit tests on disposable masks and spot-check/audit.
- Don't forget mental health issues.



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