Construction Safety Officer:

A construction safety officer is responsible for making sure all the workers at a construction site are working safely and following all the correct safety procedures. They may have other duties as well, but the primary duty of construction officers is to keep things safe around the job site. Construction safety officers have to know all the Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) regulations, and they often work closely with officials from OSHA as well.

**Growing Concern for Safety in Construction**

In recent years, builders have begun to put increased emphasis on keeping things safe at the jobsite. This is largely because it has been proven that construction companies where safety is emphasized have an easier task retaining their workers.

The construction industry is embracing technology and rapidly moving towards the future. With things like augmented reality, BIM, 3D models and other advanced technologies, the way [construction safety officers work is changing](https://certifiedsitesafety.com/training/). Thanks to all of this incredible technology that they now have at their disposal, safety officers can detect safety hazards earlier in the planning process today. This allows them more time to develop safety protocols to ensure that the jobsite is as safe as possible from the moment ground is broken on the project.

One of the neatest ways that construction [safety officers](https://certifiedsitesafety.com/management/) jobs are changing is with the use of drone technology. With drones equipped with cameras on the construction site, officers can perform safety checks remotely from anywhere in the world by using camera feeds from the drones to monitor the safety of the site and the workers.

**1. Regulating Maintenance and Safety Policies**

The construction safety officer is responsible for monitoring all the maintenance and safety policies at the site. The safety officer needs to update these policies as necessary to keep the site as safe as possible. Research shows that having a safety officer keep policies up-to-date and enforcing them effectively will greatly reduce accidents on the jobsite, which will drive down the need to pay out worker compensation claims by reducing the number of injuries that occur. It will also help companies to retain their workforce as they are less likely to quit when accidents don’t occur frequently.

**2. Inspecting the Site**

Of course, one of the biggest responsibilities a construction safety officer is to inspect the construction site to ensure that everything is safe. The safety officer slowly inspects every spot on the site, checking for hazards along the way. The officer looks for broken equipment, defective tools and other safety hazards that put workers at risk. The officer also looks to make sure workers are using all the proper safety gear and that they know how to properly use the equipment they are operating.

**3. Accident Investigation**

No matter how good a construction safety officer is, accidents will occur. It is just part of the nature of construction work. When an accident happens, the construction safety officer investigates thoroughly to determine what caused it. Using the results of the investigation, the safety officer will develop procedures to prevent similar accidents from occurring in the future.

Construction safety officers need the proper [training](https://certifiedsitesafety.com/management/) to be good at their jobs. If you want the safety officer on your site to be the best, send him for training at <https://certifiedsitesafety.com/management/>. Certified Safety Management provides expert training that creates topnotch construction safety officers. This training will improve the performance of construction safety officers, ensuring that accidents are decreased and worker compensation claims drop.

Safety audits and inspections instantaneously, allowing the safety officer to be “next” to the individual performing the task.

**Policy and Regulation Maintenance**

Safety officers develop, implement and enforce policies that reduce the risk of accidents. The safety officer determines what policies are needed and how to enforce them.

The safety officer is responsible for keeping policies up to date, meeting the latest standards and establishing new ones from time to time as more and newer risks are discovered.

Facts demonstrate that a safety officer working for your company or on a project can reduce by 37% the worker’s compensation EMR and bring almost 79% reduction in employee turnover rate.

**Site Safety Inspection**

The safety officer is in charge of inspecting site conditions to determine if hazards are present and to establish procedures and policies to overcome those hazardous situations.

The safety officer looks for broken equipment, defective tools, and other potential hazards, focusing on worker safety. The safety officer determines what type of personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed and makes sure that workers know how to operate and use tools and equipment.

**Accident Investigation**

The safety officer’s main responsibility is to diminish or eliminate work-related accidents. However, if an accident occurs, the safety officer will conduct a safety investigation to determine root causes, what procedures may have gone wrong, and to gather the evidence necessary to identify the cause of the accident.

Based on investigation results, the safety officer will document findings and recommendations that should be followed to prevent the accident from happening again. Some of the most common incidents avoided at the workplace by safety offices are related to:

* Usage of faulty equipment and electrical cord extensions
* Reduction of fatality during trenching and excavating
* Reduction of accidents and increase protection of workers when using formwork
* Safety procedures enhance when working on roofs and elevated surfaces

**Construction Safety Officer Training**

A construction safety officer needs to be proactive, staying a step ahead of the group on safety and environmental hazards. In doing so, the officer trains all employees and identifies special requirements for employees.

The safety officer provides training to employees on safety topics required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). These include fire prevention plans, machine guarding and hazardous materials handling.

**Record Keeping**

The safety officer is also responsible for reviewing and meeting all state and federal safety standard requirements for record-keeping.  The safety officer also submits the OSHA form 300, which is a summary of all injuries that resulted in lost work time, restricted duties or job transfers.

They also ensure that the poster entitled “Job Safety and Health: It’s the Law” and other documents are displayed in readily visible and accessible location in the workplace, as required by OSHA.

**Responsibilities Summary**

**A construction safety officer can be responsible for the following duties:**

* Inspects the site to ensure it is a hazard-free environment.
* Conducts toolbox meetings
* Is part of the project safety council and leads all efforts to enhance safety
* The safety officer reviews and approves all subcontractors safety plans
* Verifies that injury logs and reports are completed and submitted to related government agencies
* Verifies that all tools and equipment are adequate and safe for use.
* Promotes safe practices at the job site.
* Enforces safety guidelines.
* Trains and carries out drills and exercises on how to manage emergency situations.
* Conducts investigations of all accidents and near-misses.
* Reports to concerned authorities as requested or mandated by regulations.
* Conducts job hazard analyses.
* Establishes safety standards and policies as needed.
* Performs emergency response drills.
* Watches out for the safety of all workers and works to protect them from entering hazardous situations.
* Responds to employees’ safety concerns.
* Coordinates registration and removal of hazardous waste.
* Serves as the link between state and local agencies and contractors.
* Receives reports from and responds to orders issued by Department of Labor inspectors.
* Arranges for OSHA mandated testing and/or evaluations of the workplace by external agencies/consultants.