

## Be vigilant for children around jobsites

Children can be a curious lot and because of that are usually attracted to construction sites. Of course, letting them onto the jobsite is out of the question, but how do you help them resist the temptation of trespassing?

### **Jobsite security**

Review your jobsite security. Do you have fences in place? If you do, remember that kids can and will climb over, under, or through them. That's why you should lock up tools and equipment when workers aren't around. These precautions should be in place no matter if children are present in the area or not.

What about the jobsite location? Is it near a school or housing complex? If so, the potential for trespassing (and theft) is probably going to increase.

### **Hazards**

Kids view construction jobsites in a variety of ways, but most of the time as a place to explore and play. Because they are children, they can't be expected to be aware of all the hazards present. Combine that lack of awareness with the lack of personal protection equipment and you have a recipe for disaster.

### **What should you do?**

To prevent injury (and the associated liability) you should do the following:

- Lock or secure all equipment so it can't be started.
- Lock buildings, storage sheds, and the fence gate.
- De-energize or securely lock electric panels.
- Take down ladders.
- Secure gasoline or other chemicals.
- Erect fencing around excavations.
- Lower to the ground excavator buckets, dozer blades, and any other equipment that could be a hazard.
- Don't leave mobile equipment on a slope where it may roll if the brakes are released or if the vehicle is inadvertently started.

Keep children away from the jobsite at all times. For example, don't allow them to play on dirt piles while your crew is working. This only encourages them to come to the jobsite when no one is around.

By following these general rules, you'll protect the company from liability and save children from serious injuries and death.