

## Community Colleges - Construction Project Considerations

It is that time of year again when the Facilities departments are gearing up for the summer construction projects. It is exciting to see these investments in the educational environment. It can also be stressful with the impacts and timelines for completion prior to the beginning of Fall term. Summer usually means fewer people on campus and with social distancing possibly even less than usual. However, we must continue to be diligent to protect students, staff and others from the hazards associated with these projects. Below are a few of the consideration for evaluating the risks associated with your campus projects.

**General Involvement:** Communicating to the campus community regarding upcoming disruptions is important. Attend routine construction meetings to stay informed concerning planned construction activities and be available to discuss the potential impacts on the campus operations.

**Project Perimeter Access and Control:** Access is usually the responsibility of the contractor. Ensure the contractor controls access to the job site. The site may require locked doors, have fencing, copious signage (authorized personnel only, etc.) and controlled access points/gates. Construction sites can be considered attractive nuisances and should be adequately secured in off hours.

**Equipment and Storage Areas Controls:** If equipment and materials will be stored onsite and outside of the construction perimeter, additional consideration for containment may be necessary.

**Construction Trash and Debris Storage/Removal:** Debris may be an attractive nuisance and has been a frequent target of arson. Store these materials appropriately and securely.

**Vehicular & Pedestrian Traffic:** As the construction project begins and proceeds, impact to vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including mass transit and parking should be evaluated. Maintaining safe pathways while ensuring appropriate and accessible routes (including signage) needs to be considered during the construction project.

**Utility Failure:** It is not uncommon for construction projects to inadvertently impact utilities such as electrical, gas, water, sewer, etc. Therefore, it is a prudent practice to develop and/or update a utility failure/interruption response plan to address this potential.

The items outlined above are just a few of the factors to be considered for your project. For this and other community college risk management issues, contact Allen Bunch at [abunch@sdao.com](mailto:abunch@sdao.com).