

Safety Urges Caution in Construction Areas

Construction areas require extra precaution from not only the workers on site, but also pedestrians, motorists and other passers-by who might not recognize the potential safety hazards until an accident occurs.

Every year, a multitude of injuries and many fatalities are directly attributed to construction site incidents involving heavy equipment, falling debris, trips and falls, and more. Many of these accidents could have been avoided through proper awareness and the application of all site safety procedures.

Construction sites are usually within close proximity to areas where the public operates. This is especially true at Fort Lee where some of the projects are being conducted near active work areas, troop barracks, lodging facilities and family housing.

Motorists and pedestrians should always exercise caution when in the vicinity of construction sites. Be aware that dangers exist within the boundaries of the site itself as well as the immediate area around the perimeter. The hazards include large and cumbersome vehicles, traffic in and out of the site, broken or removed curbs or sidewalks, large holes, muddy areas that could be slippery, contractors working near or in the street, and excessive noise and dust that could affect hearing or visibility.

Common sense can save lives and prevent injury. Everyone must take precaution and become aware of the danger. Stay out of construction sites unless you have a valid reason to be there. Parents should talk to their children to make sure they're aware of the danger. If you're passing by a construction site, slow down and watch for potential hazards.

Some of the construction areas that Fort Lee community members should be aware of include the following:

- 217th Central Operations Facility construction at Mahone Ave. (between B and C Avenues). One of the biggest dangers is the limited visibility of vehicles turning into the site.
- New lodging facility construction near the Army Logistics University parking lot at 34th Street and along Mahone Avenue. With many construction vehicles entering and exiting the site, and pedestrians travelling to and from the ALU, this area poses an increased risk. Pedestrians and motorists should use extra caution when travelling these routes.
- 23rd Brigade barracks construction between A and B Avenues. This entire area is well marked and is nearing completion. The sidewalk on A Ave is not yet completed.
- Excavation hole behind Memorial Chapel. This area is properly covered and marked while awaiting repair, but parents should still take caution and keep children away from this site.
- Intersection redesign at 1st Street and A Ave. Be cautious of vehicles and workers in the area.

In addition to the above construction sites, the Fort Lee community also should be aware of the limited visibility along Sisisky Ave. (from Battle Drive to B Ave.) and along A Ave. (from Trenton Drive to 40th St.). Neither of these areas have street lights and, during hours of darkness, motorists should be cautious and pedestrians should make sure they can be seen by wearing appropriate reflective clothing and/or using a flashlight.

Safety is everyone's business. Please contact the Installation Safety Office at (804) 765-3130 to report any public hazard or safety concern no matter how minor you think it may be.

- Installation Safety Office