

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

Lights Camera ACTION!



Even if there aren't any cameras around, you still need enough light to do your job. Do you ever think about lighting on the jobsite? Many workers take good lighting for granted because they are accustomed to having the sun light their way. If you work at night or in areas without windows, you know how important adequate lighting can be. At this time of year its often dark at the beginning and end of the workday.

To get the job done and get it done safely, you need to see your work clearly, and that requires good lighting. OSHA has established illumination standards for construction areas [see table D-3 in 29 CFR 1926 56(a)] Illumination is measured in foot-candles. For reference: full sun at noon on the roof of your car is about 10,000 foot-candles, the full moon directly overhead will deliver about 0.02 foot-candles, a 125 watt bulb in an eight-foot ceiling will deliver about 5 foot-candles on a work surface three feet above the floor, reading is comfortable at about 10 foot-candles delivered by a 100 watt bulb about three feet away. Here are OSHA's lighting requirements:

AREA OF OPERATION

Concrete placement, excavation, and refueling areas
General construction lighting
Warehouses, hallways, and exit ways
Tunnels, shafts, and underground work areas
Construction plants and shops

First aid stations, infirmaries, and offices

BRIGHTNESS

3 foot-candles(dim)

5 foot-candles(moderate)

5 foot-candles(moderate)

5 foot-candles(moderate)

10 foot-candles(bright)

30 foot-candles(very bright)

Having enough light is not your only concern. Don't look directly into lights; doing so can temporarily impair your vision causing you to trip or run into something. Lights should be positioned to avoid glare and spaced to provide adequate illumination of work areas. Wiring for portable lighting needs to be run safely to prevent tripping hazards. If portable generators are used to provide electricity for temporary lighting, make sure that the exhaust is vented to the outside.