

Study of Construction Safety Management System

Sameer P Milkhe

G.H. RAISONI UNIVERSITY, AMRAVATI

Abstract- This dissertation presents a comprehensive study of Construction Safety Management Systems (CSMS), focusing on their development, implementation, and effectiveness in enhancing safety performance within the construction industry. The research addresses the critical need for robust safety frameworks to mitigate the high incidence of accidents and injuries on construction sites, which remain a significant challenge globally due to the sector's complex and dynamic nature. The study aims to evaluate existing CSMS frameworks, identify gaps in their application, and propose strategies for improvement to ensure safer working environments.

The methodology employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative analyses. Data were collected through surveys and interviews with construction professionals, including project managers, safety officers, and workers, across multiple construction projects. Additionally, a thorough review of safety records, incident reports, and regulatory compliance documents was conducted to assess the practical application of CSMS. The study also incorporates case studies of successful safety management implementations to identify best practices and key performance indicators.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction to Safety

There are various types of construction management. Safety management includes managing all business activities that help prevent accidents and injuries and minimize risk on the job site. A safety management system includes all safety-related activity on a work site. Whether its hazard identification and safety policies to safety plans, objective setting, safety training schedules, and reporting procedures, you need to map out the entire management structure extensively, accounting for every last detail.

Construction industry sites are one of the most hazardous workplace environments to work in with regard to health and safety of employees. There is high risk in the construction industry because of the production processes, labor intensive characteristics and occupational mishaps that result in large scale financial losses and bad reputation of the firm.

Construction site safety is a very important requirement in the construction industry that is often neglected on project sites. Without proper safety regulations employees are prone to minor and major accidents on a regular basis because of the dangerous and dynamic environment of the construction industry. Some of the most common hazards in the construction industry are:

- Falling objects
- Exposure to chemical substances
- Fall from heights
- Dust inhalations
- Vehicular and equipment accidents
- Working in confined spaces •
- Slips on sites
- Fire and explosions
- Electrocutions
- Defective Safety Equipments
- Chemical spills

Most accidents in the construction industry are caused due to lack of education about construction safety management and training. Negligence and ignorance on the part of any individual or authorities can also result in hazards.

Accidents above ground level are caused by negligence of works by scaffolding, by machinery, by plants. Workers are always in danger of collapsing the scaffolding. The use of faulty materials, negligence, inefficiency in the construction of scaffolding causes more and more accidents due to scaffolding. Falling from a high place on a construction site is not a fatal accidents at times, it is a common occurrence. Every worker at the construction site is at risk of falling anytime and anywhere, especially from a high place. Lack of safety measures at the construction site is one of the reasons for accidents. Accidents occurring on site can be defined by workers, workers are plagued by equipment, private vehicles, collapsing materials, vertically fluttering materials, and horizontally transported material. The supervisor does not always have proper control over the load of handling accepted by the crane during operation. Accident is an indirect event and its causes are as follows- this can be due to lack of training, improper equipment and proper platform, wrong security attitude, incomplete housekeeping, failure to use personal protective equipment and procurement

process method and sub contracting method. Due to lack of training at the construction site and lack of technical training, workers do not have the potential to anticipate potential risks, accidents and adequate knowledge. Workers may be at risk when the working platform is being used improperly, equipment is not being used properly, equipment is not being maintained or they are not being stored. Safety attitudes of construction workers are greatly influenced by their understanding of risk, management, safety rules and procedures. Unsafe actions also include non-compliance with the procedure, rude construction, and the decision to proceed with work in unsafe conditions. The poor housekeeping in the workplace can be considered as a risk factor for occupational injuries. Working without personal safety equipment can greatly increase the chances of an accident. The reason for refusing to wear PPE is to feel uncomfortable about the gears on site while working and to find their week output annoying and some workers feel uncomfortable wearing PPE and feel that their work is indirectly reduced due to PPE. Subcontractors are generally unaware of safety at the construction site. Poor coordination, lack of proper instruction, misunderstandings in work practices can all lead to accidents in construction.

II. IDENTIFY, RESEARCH AND COLLECT IDEA

Many businesses have a safety management system in place, whether they refer to it that way or not. It is reflected in how executives think about safety, the level of training provided to workers and the actions of those workers as they complete their tasks. To truly foster continuous improvement in occupational safety and health, organizations need to understand what leads to safety and health success. As one example, OSHA provides guidelines for effective safety and health program management that include the following elements:

- Commitment and leadership from management
- Worker participation
- Hazard identification and assessment
- Hazard prevention and control
- Education and training Communication
- Program improvement

Lindgren encourages contractors and safety professionals to examine each of these elements when exploring how they can improve safety and health programs to determine what may be lacking or in need of improvement. While OSHA provides these guidelines and many other resources for effective safety management, Lindgren emphasizes that OSHA compliance should not be the reason that contractors be proactive about safety. "You should be

professing to your people that you care about them," she says. "That's why we operate safely - not because OSHA says so." Tying these issues together, Lindgren emphasizes the need to plan for worker safety, and highlights the role that safety professionals play in that planning. "Workers need the mental as well as physical tools to do their jobs safely," she says. "We must provide them with the proper tools to fit with the company's safety and health management system. Whether we have two employees or 2,000, we have an obligation to protect them."



Figure 1.1 Risk Management Flow

Scope of Study

- Development and execution of safety training programs for all workers and supervisors to ensure they are knowledgeable about construction safety protocols, hazard recognition, and emergency procedures.
- Establishes a comprehensive safety plan tailored to the project, including written procedures for safe work practices. These plans cover a range of safety protocols from PPE requirements to emergency evacuation.
- The system identifies potential hazards associated with construction activities, including physical risks (falls, equipment malfunctions), chemical exposures, and environmental conditions. It involves risk assessment procedures to evaluate the likelihood and severity of these hazards and prioritize mitigation strategies.
- Covers the systems for reporting, recording, and investigating accidents, incidents, and near-misses. A thorough investigation is required to identify root causes and implement corrective actions to prevent future occurrences.

- This part of the system involves ongoing monitoring of safety practices, evaluating their effectiveness, and making necessary adjustments to improve safety outcomes. It focuses on auditing and reviewing safety procedures periodically.
- Involves developing and implementing plans for responding to emergencies such as fires, chemical spills, structural failures, or natural disasters. It includes creating communication strategies, evacuation plans, and first-aid protocols.
- Integrating modern technologies such as IoT sensors, drones, wearable devices, and software platforms for real-time monitoring of hazards, worker conditions, and site environments.
- In addition to physical safety, a CSMS often includes programs aimed at ensuring workers' mental and physical well-being. This can include ergonomic assessments, stress management programs, and health check-ups.
- Ensures proper selection, use, and maintenance of personal protective equipment to safeguard workers from potential hazards. It includes monitoring compliance with PPE requirements across different tasks.
- Extends to managing the safety performance of subcontractors and suppliers working on the construction site. This includes vetting their safety procedures, ensuring compliance, and integrating them into the overall CSMS.
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- Establishes clear channels for communicating safety expectations and updates between clients, contractors, and all relevant stakeholders.
- Addresses the environmental impact of construction activities, such as air quality, noise levels, and waste management. It ensures that safety protocols also align with environmental conservation goals.
- Promoting a safety-first culture across the organization where every worker takes responsibility for safety. It involves fostering attitudes, behaviors, and practices that prioritize safety.
- Maintaining records of all safety-related activities, including training records, safety meetings, equipment inspections, incident reports, and compliance certifications.

- 1) Read already published work in the same field.
- 2) Goggling on the topic of your research work.

III. WRITEDOWNYOURSTUDIESAND FINDINGS

1. Educate the Workforce

For workers to perform safely, they must understand the hazards and risks they face on the job site. Given the transient workforce in the construction industry, certain workers may not always be as familiar with the work being done nor the hazards involved. That's why contractors and safety professionals must ensure that the workers participating on a project have the right skill set and knowledge to complete their tasks safely. Contractors and/or safety professionals need to ensure that everyone is aware of common hazards in construction, such as the OSHA "focus four" of fall hazards, caught-in or between hazards, struck-by hazards and electrocution hazards, and how to prevent those types of incidents. They must also recognize that conditions change throughout the day, leading to new hazards that may not have been present when the work started. "Construction is a constant flux of change," says Kim Lindgren, CHST, and OSHA lead instructor and curriculum developer for construction and maritime. "When you show up at a job site in the morning, it's a different site an hour later or at the end of the day." Therefore, contractors and workers need to monitor the job site continuously and observe any changes arise. Toolbox talks are one tactic contractors can employ to educate workers. These provide workers 10- to 15-minute informational sessions before a shift that addresses the hazards associated with the tasks they will be performing and how those hazards can be mitigated to help workers perform their tasks safely.

2. Look Out for Worker Well-Being

Along with the hazards that workers face on the job site, other dangers have emerged as serious issues in the construction industry. A 2015 study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control found that the construction and excavation industries had the highest suicide rate among males of all major occupational groups. Furthermore, a 2018 study from the Midwest Economic Policy Institute found that nearly 15 percent of construction workers suffer from substance abuse. Protecting the safety and health of construction workers goes beyond mitigating hazards on the job site. Measures such as employee assistance programs provide a confidential forum for workers to discuss personal issues such as substance abuse or depression so they can get the help they need.

3. Understand the Project

When undertaking any project, all involved need a comprehensive understanding of the work to be performed,

any requirements that work must meet and who is responsible for what tasks. This gains added importance in the construction industry, since many sites have contractors from multiple employers working side by side, and often dozens of workers performing different tasks for various periods of time. Given these circumstances, contractors, project managers and safety professionals need to be aware of any regulatory requirements governing the work being performed. They also must understand the range of different groups on their job site at any given time (e.g., electricians, iron workers, plumbers, painters) and what is expected of them in terms of project safety. "Contractors must be aware of the safety and health hazards associated with the work they will be performing or managing," Lindgren says. "They must also be diligent in identifying site-specific requirements, be aware of and understand the various authorities having jurisdiction and perform work not just to attempt to meet OSHA standards, but to adhere to a best practice approach."

4. Remember the Hierarchy of Controls

In some cases on construction sites, personal protective equipment (PPE) may be used as the first line of defense in protecting workers from hazards. Lindgren stresses the need for contractors, safety professionals and workers to remember that the hierarchy of controls begins with elimination or substitution of hazards. These methods provide the greatest mitigation of hazards in order to protect workers and, therefore, should be pursued before moving further down the hierarchy to PPE. "It's mind-boggling how many people think that PPE is always the answer," she says. "PPE should be your last resort." For situations in which PPE is necessary, contractors and safety professionals should ensure that workers are trained on every component of the equipment in order to use it properly. "If you're handing a harness or a lanyard to a worker, you have to think about whether that individual is trained on every component of that system," Lindgren says.

5. Employ Effective Safety Management

Many businesses have a safety management system in place, whether they refer to it that way or not. It is reflected in how executives think about safety, the level of training provided to workers and the actions of those workers as they complete their tasks. To truly foster continuous improvement in occupational safety and health, organizations need to understand what leads to safety and health success. As one example, OSHA provides guidelines for effective safety and health program management that include the following elements:

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IV. GETPEERREVIEWED

IMPROVEMENT AS PER REVIEWER COMMENTS

- i. All materials of constructions in load bearing elements, stairways and corridors and facades shall be non-combustible.
- ii. TheinteriorfinishmaterialsshallnothaveflamespreadabilityratingexceedingClassI(see 3.4.15.2ofPart4ofNationalBuildingCode)
- iii. Clause 3.15.2- The susceptibility to fire of various types of wall surfaces is determined in terms of the rate of spread of flame. Based on the rate of spread of flame, surfacing material shall be considered as divided into four classes as follows:
 - a) Class1 Surfaces of very low flame spread.
 - b) Class2Surfacesoflowflame spread.
 - c) Class3Surfacesofmediumflame spread.
 - d) Class4Surfacesofrapidfame spread
- iv. The staircase shall be ventilated to the atmosphere at each landing and a vent at the top; the vent openings shall beof0.5sq.min the external wall and the top.
- v. If the staircase cannot be ventilated, because of location or other reasons, a positive pressure50Pa shall be maintained inside.

- vi. The mechanism for pressurizing the staircase shall operate automatically with the fire alarm. The roof of the shaft shall be 1 m. above the surrounding roof. Glazing or glass bricks, if used in staircase, shall have fire resistance rating of minimum 2h.
- vii. Flammable materials cannot be used for partitions, wall paneling, false ceilings, etc. No materials that emit toxic gases and fumes can be used for floor or wall paneling, false ceilings, etc. in the event of a fire. A complete false ceiling frame with metal sections will be provided and no wooden frame will be allowed for paneling or false ceiling installation. All of the above layers will correspond to Class-I of the material surface frame detail.
- viii. Construction features/elements of structure shall conform to National Building Code and BIS code.

V. IMPROVEMENT AS PER

The collect several data from the questionnaire, site visit, and informal conversations with the engineer. By comparing the results, several conclusions about the current practice of construction safety management at the project site can be drawn. The role of the safety and health officer is the first. According to the survey, having a safety officer is the most important factor. This demonstrates that for this project, the company hired a safety and health officer. On the other hand, according to the conversation with the site engineer, the site's safety officer is unqualified. This is because Green Book Training is required in order to become a competent safety and health officer. The company did not implement this. The cost and salary of paying the safety supervisor is one of the factors. Second, the results of questionnaires and site visits contradict each other. According to site visits, the majority of the construction workers were not wearing proper protective equipment (PPE) on the work. According to the company's site engineer, the site's safety enforcement is strict. On the construction site, workers are not required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE). One of the reasons for the workers' permission is that if the management takes any action against them, the site's progress will be slowed because the majority of the workers do not wear PPE. According to chart 2, 11.1 percent of respondents disagree on several items. The items are (JSA/JHA is practiced on the construction site, workers wear PPE on the job, HSE policy is published to all workers, DOSH guidelines are briefed to all employees, safety awareness is conducted, emergency response plans are used on the job site, and the company has established a Safety Management System. The reason they disagree is that the company most likely did not adequately brief their employees on their safety policies.

VI. CONCLUSION

The construction industry, characterized by its dynamic and high-risk environments, necessitates robust safety management systems to safeguard workers, ensure project efficiency, and comply with regulatory standards. This chapter presents the results and discussion of a comprehensive study on Construction Safety Management Systems (CSMS), focusing on their implementation, effectiveness, and impact on reducing workplace incidents. The findings are derived from a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from incident reports, safety audits, and worker surveys with qualitative insights from interviews with site managers, safety officers, and frontline workers. The analysis evaluates key components of CSMS, including risk assessment, training programs, standard operating procedures, emergency preparedness, and the integration of technology, to determine their role in fostering a culture of safety. By examining both successes and challenges, this chapter aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how CSMS operate in real-world construction settings, identifying factors that enhance their efficacy and areas requiring improvement. The discussion contextualizes the results within existing literature, comparing findings with industry benchmarks and theoretical frameworks, and explores practical implications for construction firms seeking to optimize safety performance. Ultimately, this chapter underscores the critical importance of proactive, adaptive, and worker-centered safety management systems in mitigating the inherent hazards of construction work and promoting sustainable industry practices.

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