

Guide to construction **safety signage** on Griffith University campus sites

All contractors and employees have legal obligations under the Qld Workplace Health and Safety Act, to protect contractors, employees and members of the public, from the hazards of building or maintenance work. On University campuses, this specifically includes the protection of our University staff and students, as well as visitors.

There are several specific WH & S Regulations, which define the obligations for Principal Contractors and Relevant Persons undertaking construction, maintenance and service work. The WH & S Regulations require mandatory risk management and prescribe minimum protection measures for construction type hazards such as:

- Falling objects from heights or flying objects
- Falls from heights
- Falls into trenches or excavations
- Removal of asbestos material or AC sheets
- Demolition activities
- Housekeeping
- Common plant or equipment
- Hazardous substances
- Underground services



This Griffith University Safety Guide aims to support and explain the implementation on campus of several WH & S Regulatory requirements, not replace them.

Why display safety signage around your work area or site?

The University is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and students live on-campus in at least 2 of our 5 campuses.

Proper safety signage may warn and deter unauthorised persons from accessing or entering your work area where they can be exposed to building or maintenance hazards such as exposed steel reinforcing, trenches, excavations or electrical or chemical sources. This access may be deliberate or accidental in nature.

The main groups of persons exposed to such construction or maintenance hazards on campus could be:

- adolescent and adult students [a high proportion of international students have limited English understanding]
- University staff and
- occasionally the children of either group or visitors
- other contractors or delivery personnel

Safety signs are meant to convey important information about a safety hazard, whether temporary or permanent. Signs alone will not guarantee that unauthorised persons will not enter your work area. It will not deter those who are determined to gain access to your work area ie: vandals or thieves. On campus, safety signage should where possible, include internationally understood safety symbols, rather than just words. As a high proportion of our students have English as a second language.

Signage, in conjunction with appropriate safety barricading or fencing, will discourage most people and may demonstrate that you have taken reasonable steps to meet your responsibilities under the WH & S Act.

When should you display safety signs?

Construction safety signage that is suitable for the work being done, must be erected before work starts.

Signs must be displayed prominently in appropriate places around the work area to warn

- That the area is a construction workplace or area eg: *Construction site. No unauthorised entry* and
- That unauthorised entry is not allowed eg: *all persons must report to the site office* or
- That they must not enter or use the workplace or adjoining area under special circumstances. Eg: *Do not proceed if light flashing, load being lifted overhead.*
- That where adjoining areas or access ways are closed or partially closed off, signs must clearly show this closure and direct pedestrians or traffic to use another footpath or access way.



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What type of safety signs should you use?










Safety signage must comply with AS 1319 - Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment as shown at right.

Hand written safety signs are not suitable for the University environment.

Signage display tips for best effect.

- Keep signs clean and clear of objects or trees.
- Should not have sharp or rough edges
- Make signs highly visible - clear , large enough lettering with contrasting background,
- Ensure clearly illuminated - during day or night [extra lighting may be needed]
- Place at reader eye level - no more than 2 m from ground level;
- For visually impaired persons, position to enable persons to get close enough to read the sign, without endangering themselves.
- Securely attach to fencing or barricades to prevent removal or becoming a flying object in severe weather.

For defined construction sites, contractors should refer directly to the relevant WH & S Regulations as listed below for mandatory standards of safety signage. [Workplace Health and Safety Qld website](#)

	A prohibition sign	A red circle with a line through it means this is something you must not do .
 	A hazard sign	A yellow triangle or other shape sign warns you of the presence of a hazard, or risk to your health or safety.
 	A mandatory sign	A blue circle tells you that you must wear particular safety equipment.
 	Emergency information sign	A green sign tells you where emergency safety or first aid equipment is located.
 	Fire warning sign	A red sign tells you where a fire fighting facility or equipment is located.

Definitions:

WH & S Act

Construction work is

- work to erect, construct, extend, alter, convert, fit-out, commission, renovate, repair, refurbish, disassemble or decommission a structure, or part of a structure; or
- work connected with site preparation, excavation and landscaping for work as above; or
- the assembly or installation of prefabricated components to form a structure, or part of a structure, for work as above or
- the disassembly of prefabricated components for work as above that, immediately before the disassembly, formed a structure or part or a structure; or
- an activity that is a prescribed activity

Structure means—

- a building, a steel or reinforced concrete construction, wall, mast, tower, pylon, structural cable or telecommunications structure; or
- an underground works (including shafts and tunnels), pipe, pipeline, sea defence works, river works, earthworks or earth retaining construction or other construction designed to preserve or alter a natural feature; or
- a road or highway, footpath or driveway, railway line or siding, tramway line, airfield, dock or harbour, water storage or supply system (including a constructed lagoon), sewerage or drainage system, electricity or gas generation facility, transmission or distribution facility, example, a golf course, playing field, racecourse or swimming pool); or
- production, storage or distribution facilities for heavy industries; or
- fixed plant; or
- a ship or submarine; or
- formwork, falsework, scaffold or other construction designed or used to provide support, access or containment during construction work.

WH & S Regulations - References - [Workplace Health and Safety Qld website](#)

Part 11 - Asbestos removal and management

S 172 - Principal Contractors obligation to erect signs

S 173 - Principal Contractors obligation about housekeeping practices

S 175 - Principal Contractors obligation for common plant

S 176 - Principal Contractors obligation for hazardous substances

S 177 - Principal Contractors obligation underground services

S 178 - Principal Contractors obligation for falling objects

S 180 - Control measures for civil construction work and housing construction work

S 181 - Control measures for construction work that is not civil construction work or housing construction work

S 183 - Control measures for demolition work or work erecting or dismantling formwork

S 184 - Perimeter containment screening

S 185 - Catch platform as control measures

S 186 - Gantry as a control measure

S 187 - Load lifted over adjoining area

S 188 - Closure of part or all of adjoining area

S 190 - Relevant Persons Obligations

Constructor Safety Online Induction

safety-signage.doc

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