



ADVISORY BULLETIN

April 2016

Subject: **Construction Site Fencing**

Background:

There are inherent dangers on construction sites throughout the City of Calgary. Construction site fencing is an imperative component where a barrier to public access is required. The base of the requirement stems from an objective of safety to resist or discourage unwanted access or entry. The barrier also acts as a deterrent of property theft from construction sites. Construction site fences are required at construction sites, demolition sites, where emergency construction work has to be performed, and any other area deemed unsafe by the authority having jurisdiction in the Building discipline.

The owner is responsible for construction, maintenance, care, and control of a construction site. During construction the owner is often the contractor. In accordance with the 2014 Alberta Building Code:

Division C

2.2.14.2. Article Responsibility for Damage

- 1) The *owner* is responsible for the repair of any damage to public property or works located thereon that may occur as a result of undertaking work regulated by this Code.

- 2) The *owner* shall ensure that *work* undertaken does not damage or create a hazard to adjacent properties.

Division B, Part 8 of the Alberta Building Code also regulates Safety Measures at Construction and Demolition Sites.

Where a construction or demolition site poses a hazard to public safety and the site is not currently attended by the owner or an owner's representative a Safety Codes Officer may require an immediate securing of site which may include full or partial fencing or re-installation of fencing already on the site. An attempt will be made to contact the owner, however where the owner or owners' representatives are not

available, a Safety Codes Officer will carry out orders to secure the site at the expense of the owner.

Advisory:

Current practices must be reviewed by owners and contractors to comply with the 2014 Alberta Building Code. Where the public may reasonably be expected to be on or about the work site, the requirements for protective fencing would apply. Snow fencing is not an acceptable material.

Division B,

8.2.1.3. Fencing, Boarding or Barricades

- 1) When a construction or demolition activity may constitute a hazard to the public and is located 2 m or more from a *public way*, a strongly constructed fence, boarding or barricade not less than 1.8 m high shall be erected between the site and the *public way* or open sides of a construction site.
- 2) Barricades shall have a reasonably smooth surface facing the *public way* and shall be without openings, except those required for access.
- 3) Access openings through barricades shall be equipped with gates that shall be
 - a) kept closed and locked when the site is unattended, and
 - b) maintained in place until completion of the construction or demolition activity.

8.2.1.4. Special Hazards

- 1) Where any special hazard exists from which it is not possible to protect the public by other means, persons shall be employed to prevent the public from entering the danger zone at any time of the day or night.

8.2.1.5. Work Shutdown

- 1) When *work* on a construction site is suspended or ceases so that it will not be occupied during normal working hours, the hazardous part of the construction site shall be protected by
 - a) covering all windows, doors and other openings located within 3 m of the ground which may give access to the *building* with a securely fastened barricade, or
 - b) a fence or barricade constructed according to the requirements of Article 8.2.1.3.

All construction work must also comply with applicable City of Calgary Bylaws and Occupational Health and Safety Act requirements.

Further site safety information is available online at www.calgary.ca/constructionsafety