Contractor Lifecycle: Selection, Supervision, Close-Out Stats and Facts



FACTS

- **Inadequate Contractor Selection:** Hiring contractors without verifying qualifications, certifications, or safety records increases the risk of unsafe work practices on site.
- **Lack of Site-Specific Orientation:** Contractors unfamiliar with site hazards, procedures, and emergency protocols are more likely to make critical safety errors.
- **Poor Supervision and Oversight:** Limited monitoring of contractor activities can allow unsafe behaviors or deviations from procedures to go uncorrected.
- **Conflicting Procedures and Standards:** Differences between contractor and host employer safety systems can create confusion and gaps in hazard control.
- **Communication Breakdowns:** Failure to clearly communicate expectations, hazards, and responsibilities increases the likelihood of incidents.
- **Uncontrolled Work Scope Changes:** Changes in tasks without updated hazard assessments can expose contractors to unrecognized risks.
- **Improper Close-Out and Handover:** Failure to verify that work areas are safe after completion can leave hazards for workers or other contractors.

STATS

- In the United States, **approximately 20% of workplace fatalities involve contractors**, highlighting elevated risk during outsourced work (OSHA and BLS, 2021–2023).
- U.S. data shows that over 30% of construction-related fatalities involve workers employed by contractors or subcontractors, often linked to supervision and coordination gaps (BLS, 2022–2023).
- In Canada, contracted workers account for a significant portion of serious incidents, with estimates approaching 25% in high-risk industries, including construction and energy (AWCBC, 2021–2023).
- U.S. safety reports indicate that **failure to communicate hazards contributes to over 40% of contractor-related incidents**, particularly in multi-employer worksites (OSHA, 2021–2023).
- In Canada, **nearly 35% of workplace incidents involve coordination or**

communication failures, often affecting contractors working across different systems (CCOHS and AWCBC, recent data).

- U.S. research shows that inadequate supervision is a contributing factor in over 50% of serious workplace incidents involving contractors, espe1cially during high-risk tasks (NIOSH, 2021–2023).
- North American data indicates that **organizations with weak contractor management systems experience up to 2 times higher incident rates**, compared to those with structured lifecycle controls (OSHA, NSC, and industry studies, 2021–2023).