

# How Mobile Tools Are Capturing Safety Data On Jobsites

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Traditionally, construction safety management is “reactive compliance” – reporting on an incident, filling out a form on paper or electronically, taking a picture, and filing it away for compliance purposes. Safety management is shifting from reactive to proactive. Forward-thinking companies are using data and leading indicators to identify risks before incidents happen, not just document injuries after the fact. [Mobile tools](#) have completely changed the way safety operations work on construction sites, enabling that transition to proactive safety management.

Reporting now happens in the moment, which fundamentally changes how teams identify risk and prevent incidents. A contractor can now log a hazard, attach a photo, or verify required training actively within the jobsite. That immediacy also changes how frontline workers engage with safety. When reporting is quick and easy, more people actually do it, and with engaged workers and the right software tools, companies have a much clearer picture of what’s really happening on the jobsite.

Beyond accessibility on jobsites, mobile tools provide immediate visibility for construction leaders. The faster teams can move from spotting a risk to addressing it, the less likely it is to turn into an incident.

[For mid-sized construction contractors especially, what are the most common operational blind spots you see impacting safety and project performance?](#)



Mid-sized contractors have major operational complexity, but they don’t always have the infrastructure to match it. They’re running multiple projects while managing layers of trade partners and dealing with tight timelines, yet their safety and risk processes haven’t kept pace with that complexity.

One of the biggest blind spots is trade partner oversight. On any given jobsite, different crews are constantly rotating in and out as projects move forward. If compliance requirements like permits and required training aren’t centralized and easy to verify, exposures can build up quickly. It’s also imperative that trade partners understand the site-specific procedures that govern the work itself, such as isolation points and emergency protocols. If that knowledge isn’t verified before work begins, it creates an operational gap that can lead to serious incidents.

Addressing this blind spot doesn't require another spreadsheet. Instead, safety leaders need a reliable and real-time view of who's on site and whether they've met all site-specific safety requirements.

Another gap we see is an overreliance on lagging indicators. Most companies can tell you how many recordables they had last year, but what's often missing is consistent tracking of near-misses or unsafe conditions across projects. Without leading data, everything becomes reactive. When field teams can report smaller issues quickly and easily, safety leaders will start to see patterns earlier. That visibility allows leadership to step in sooner, before a recurring hazard or a near-miss turns into a serious incident that disrupts an entire project.

[In the construction industry, what separates companies that truly embed safety into their day-to-day operations from those that treat it as a standalone department?](#)

The companies that truly embed safety have it integrated into how work gets done every day, not as a separate function. If safety data only lives with the safety manager, it automatically becomes reactive and only compliance-driven. When visibility extends beyond the safety team to include project managers, operations leaders, and executives, safety becomes part of everyday decision-making.

Frontline engagement is the biggest unlock. Safety programs work when tools fit how people actually work, keeping them simple, mobile, and usable. It's important to recognize that the goal isn't more reporting for employees, it's prevention. Modern safety programs are about reducing injuries, downtime, and disruptions, not adding administrative burden.

The other difference is that embedded safety cultures focus on prevention. They look at trends, identify where risk is building, and measure participation and engagement, not just injuries. When safety becomes part of how projects are run, it tends to strengthen the entire operation. Teams experience fewer disruptions and delays, lower insurance costs, and workers become more engaged in the safety process, which can ultimately support high job satisfaction and result in lower turnover.


[How can construction companies balance efficiency and safety on the jobsite without sacrificing one for the other?](#)

Crews are constantly on the go on active jobsites, so safety processes need to reflect that. When training and reporting are built into daily workflows and accessible from a phone or tablet, it saves time and makes it easier for workers to participate.

Accessibility isn't the only efficiency advantage. Shorter, more consistent sessions throughout the year tend to stick better than one long session every few months. When workers can pull up safety videos right from their phone, whether it's during a scheduled time or between tasks, it gives them the critical information they need to know without disrupting their workflow or having to complete training outside of their work time. When software can adapt to how a company already operates, teams don't feel like they have to overhaul everything just to use new tools.

[How is data changing the way construction leaders approach risk management and project-level decision-making?](#)

Historically, leaders would review safety performance monthly or quarterly. They would look at what went wrong and make adjustments from there. The issue with this approach is that by the time those reports are reviewed, the incident has already happened. These reactive approaches don't work in the long term. Leaders need real-time visibility via easy-to-use dashboards across all active projects to identify where risk is building and address it before it escalates. The real shift happens when historical data is structured and continuously tracked, helping make patterns visible. For example, specific training gaps can show up repeatedly in certain job types, or equipment failures that seem random at first can end up recurring. That level of pattern recognition changes how leaders allocate resources, schedule work, and plan for the future.

Technology does not replace experience or judgment. Instead, it surfaces insights faster and helps teams prioritize where to focus. For construction companies operating on tight margins and tight timelines, that level of foresight can have a significant operational and financial impact. 



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### About the Author

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Michael Bruns is a technology executive with over 30 years of experience building, funding, and advising software companies from start-up through IPO or sale. He is currently CEO of [Novara](#), providing leadership to move Novara through its next phase of growth. Michael has held several executive positions at a number of SaaS companies, including project44, Uptake, Centro, and ClearTrial (acquired by Oracle). Previously, he served as a senior technology M&A advisor and investment banker at Jefferies Broadview in Silicon Valley and Baird in Chicago

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### About the Article

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