

CONSTRUCTION SITE ILLUMINATION GUIDELINES

This information is specific to the defense of premises liability and negligent security liability claims; however, these are good general guidelines for the illumination of construction job sites.

General Guidelines

All entrances to a site or to partially complete habitational units are to be well lit. This means direct light beam penetration of the area, not indirect lighting. "Direct beam" can include an overhead fixture, spot light or substantial area lighting.

All parking areas are to be well lit. Lighting levels should meet minimum illumination requirements as recommended in the IES Lighting Handbook - 1987 Application Volume; New York, NY; Illuminating Engineering Society, c1987, p. 14.27 - 14.29 (shown below).

All alleys, dumpsters, walkways, or other areas supporting an individual in hiding or attempting to gain access to the site are to be fully lit.

Minimum Illumination Levels

Pedestrian entrances, trash disposal areas, walkways = 2.0 footcandles

Parking Areas:

- (a) general parking and pedestrian areas = 0.90 footcandles
- (b) vehicle use areas = 1.0 - 2.0 footcandles during any nighttime operations

There should be a daily inspection program for all outside light fixtures, with immediate replacement of broken bulbs and globes. Spare globes are to be stored on premises.

Obstructions to Surveillance

All job site entranceways should be kept free of tree limbs, shrubs or any object interrupting complete visual observation.

Sidewalks, other pedestrian and equipment pathways, parking areas and other perimeter areas that are lined with trees and/or shrubbery and have limbs/branches extending over the perimeter fence should have the trees and shrubbery trimmed as follows:

- a. Tree limbs no lower than 7 feet above ground level;
- b. Shrubby no higher than 3 feet above ground level;
- c. These trimming/pruning parameters are intended to provide adequate surveillance and penetration of exterior lighting.