

A man wearing a black hard hat with the McGee logo, a yellow high-visibility safety vest over a grey sweater, and dark trousers stands behind a wooden table. He is speaking into a silver microphone on a stand. The background is a green screen.

REVOLUTIONISING TOOLBOX TALKS TO ENHANCE SITE SAFETY CULTURE

A person wearing a dark uniform and a black helmet is shown from the chest up, holding a tablet computer. They are standing in front of a green screen. The McGee logo is visible on the person's uniform.

CASE STUDY

Considerate Constructors Best Practice
Commonwealth House

The traditional paper based toolbox talk meetings are now a thing of the past on one of McGee's London demolition projects, following the introduction of short toolbox talk 'films'. Just like in the movies the toolbox talks are produced using a variety of filming and editing techniques including green screen, aerial photography, animation and voice over. Results have shown an enhanced positive safety culture on site, a stronger bond between its large diverse team, whilst further building commitment, boosting morale and fostering a hard working approach.

During the early phase of the partial demolition of the existing 1939 nine storey Art Deco building on the corner of New Oxford Street and High Holborn, McGee's Project Manager, Liam Hennessy, had a vision to enhance Health & Safety best practice and the culture on site through the introduction of a series of site specific toolbox talk films. Although this was moving away from the

traditional paper based methodology, the films would still aim to address site related safety or procedure topics, as well as current, expected or rectified site safety issues and hazards.

The Site Management team had previously experimented with the way they communicated to people with a lesser grasp of the English language, and the platforms in which communications were delivered. The initial movement to film was the creation of the site's bespoke induction video, which started as a concept based on improved efficiency in the induction process as well as consistency in the delivery.

Production of the films is done totally outside of work time and takes approximately 10-14 hours to make. Liam said: "I write the script and our Graduate Project Manager, Georgios Moutsanas, plays the role of the presenter - he has bags of confidence and is very comfortable in front of the

camera. I then edit everything together with voice over and site-based footage."

The toolbox talk screenings have become something the team looks forward to and are a key event on site. Steve Nicholas, Welder, said: "I've never worked on a site where I look forward to a toolbox talk."

Liam said: "Our toolbox talks have covered all kinds of topics from winter working and deep excavations, to man/machine interface and manual handling. We have also used the films as a platform to feed back the content of our safety report to help highlight the issues to the collective group."

With Liam's video production skills and the enthusiasm from the site team to play a starring role, the making of the films has never become dull. Liam added: "We always try to inject our collective quirky humour into them to make them engaging without ever losing the message."