

# THE RUSH JOB

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**H**OW MANY times do surveyors get calls on a Monday morning asking if they can send a crew out to do a rush stakeout because the construction crews are waiting to proceed with excavation, etc. and how often do surveyors accede to these requests with no time to review the construction drawings, check for errors or go over the job with the crew?

Unfortunately, it appears that the above scenario is the rule rather than the exception and it is definitely cause for concern. Surveyors have all experienced the situation where the dimensions on engineering plans do not add up or the architectural plans with their stylistic numbering are clear only in their ambiguity. These types of situations are mounting up to cause more than their share of liability claims often in the six figure range.

But how can you be expected to do a good job and avoid mistakes when you've got a D8 breathing down your neck. The fact is you can't – but there is another solution!

The solution is to say, "No! I can't do the job until I've had time to study the plans in the comfort of my office and time to review the field procedures with my best party chief – and if there are problems with the layout I'll need to review those problems with the design professional before commencement of construction. Send you cats home until we get the layout completed."

Is this an unreasonable position to take? I would suggest not. As professionals we are paid to offer a professional service. You can't offer that service unless you have the time to become familiar with the project and lay it out properly. Field location is our specialty and an incorrect field location has a negative value to the client and hence to yourself.

Let's stand together as professional land surveyors and insist that we be given time to do a proper job. It may cause some screams from potential clients in the initial instance, but the only way they'll learn is for us to insist on our right to render a proper service. How will you ever find time to do it over if you haven't got time to do it right in the first place? ●