11 crucial trends that are impacting the construction industry today.

**SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS**
Employees in construction have a 60% higher rate of substance use disorders than the national average.

**GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY**
In comparison with several industries, less than 25% of construction firms were found to match growth and productivity achieved in the last decade.

**WOMEN WORKERS**
While the number of women in construction has risen by 31% in the last decade, ill-fitting personal protective equipment, inadequate training, and lack of sanitary facilities continue to present health and safety hazards.

**DRONES**
While nearly 40% of construction companies use drones on projects, many operations still lack drone safety plans in line with FAA regulations.

**WEARABLES**
While wearables are lauded as the latest innovation in worker safety, there remains little published research that shows the technology’s effectiveness at preventing injury.

**NATURAL DISASTERS**
As natural catastrophes grow in size and severity each year, construction sites face extended delays, damages, and rainy, wet conditions.

**PROJECT OVEREXTENSION**
While billion-dollar construction projects are becoming more commonplace, 37% of contractors ranked project overextension as their number one reason for failure.

**DEFECT CLAIMS**
75% of construction industry players reported experiencing a claim or dispute in the last five years, with the most common being defect claims.

**SKILLED LABOR**
In an Associated General Contractors of America survey, 80% of construction firms said they are having trouble filling qualified hourly craft positions.

**VANDALISM**
Construct Connect estimates stolen goods and site vandalism losses average $1 billion or more annually.

**DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT DELIVERY**
Design-build project delivery is expected to represent nearly half of construction spending by 2021, but this approach can open contractors to additional liability not experienced under more traditional delivery methods.

Note: The Risk Matrix is produced by the Risk and Insurance editorial team. Liberty Mutual Insurance is the presenting sponsor and has no responsibility for the content.