

Toolbox Safety Topic

"Know" Safety

A carpenter knows how to build cabinets, a pipe fitter knows how to install plumbing, a house-keeper knows how to sanitize a room. Each craft or trade knows how to perform the scope of their work, but how many of them "know" safety?

How many of you can quote OSHA? (probably not many) How many of you can identify all safety hazards in your work area per regulations? (probably not many) Do you have to know either of these to perform your job in a safe manner? (no, but it helps)

There are certain things you need to know in order to work safely. OSHA is changing the way you perform your work. Not that safety is a new concept (it's been around since the 1970's), but it has received more attention in the past few years, and will continue to become more important in your daily work activities.

Our goal, as is your goal, is to reduce or eliminate work-related injuries and illnesses. There are things that you should know in order to promote a safe attitude.

1. **KNOW YOUR JOB.** Know what is involved and how it should be done in a safe manner. Don't take shortcuts. Follow approved protocol.
2. **KNOW YOUR TOOLS.** Know how to use them safely and how to spot unsafe conditions, such as defects, damage, excessive wear and tear.
3. **KNOW YOUR INDIVIDUAL JOB SAFETY RULES.** These rules and regulations related to your job are designed to protect you from injury.
4. **KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.** You have a responsibility to your family, your employer, yourself, and fellow employees.
5. **KNOW YOUR HAZARDS.** Be alert to ALL potential dangers around you and your fellow workers. You don't have to be able to cite a rule to know that a condition could be dangerous to you.
6. **KNOW YOUR SAFEGUARDS.** Learn what equipment and procedures will protect you in the hazardous conditions and use them!
7. **KNOW YOUR PENALTIES** – for carelessness (pain and wage loss). Be safe, not sorry.
8. **KNOW YOUR REWARDS.** There are many advantages to working safe (your health, time with your family, job satisfaction, vacation time, retirement, financial security...).
9. **KNOW YOUR REMEDIES.** Be prepared to do the right things in an emergency and correct hazards as they arise in order to avoid such emergencies.
10. **KNOW YOURSELF.** Recognize your limitations, reactions, and weaknesses. Don't expose yourself to unsafe practices.

Suppose you have a task to do and the equipment you need to do it safely is not in your work area. What would you do? (Employees should go to their supervisor if they do not have the proper equipment to perform a job in a safe manner. If equipment is not available in your department, the supervisor should go to Mike Lafon. There may be other departments which have the equipment needed, there may be procedures that should be followed in lieu of equipment. It may be necessary for the job to be delayed until the proper equipment is purchased or rented. Safety should be your number one priority, whether you're an employee or a supervisor. Make it your business to "know" safety.

Any questions?

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Date: _____

Meeting Conducted By: _____ Title: _____

Attendees

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1		24	
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