

MAKING SAFETY A PRIORITY

Personal injury and personal loss are things we all want to escape--and we can by making safety a priority in our daily work routine. Experience has shown that all the safety training and equipment in the world cannot ensure a safe workplace unless managers and employees have a positive attitude about workplace safety use the equipment provided and incorporate the training into their daily routine. Work with your supervisors and fellow employees to help ensure that you have a safe workplace. Keep in mind that workplace safety rules are developed and enforced to protect you and make certain you go home healthy and safe at the end of every work day.

Follow these helpful reminders to keep you and your fellow employees safe:

- Make safety a priority. Make safety an important part of your job and help set a good example for other employees. Do not take safety for granted. Keep your guard up and stay alert.
- Operate equipment only if qualified. Do not operate machinery on which you have not been trained.
- Respect machinery. Make sure all guards are in place. De-energize the power before placing your hands in a point of operation. Evaluate terrain and tip over hazards when operating powered industrial trucks. Inspect machinery to ensure it is in proper working order prior to use.
- Use the right tools. If you need a ladder get a ladder. Do not use a chair, boxes or racking instead of the ladder.
- Ask questions. If you are uncertain, ask. Don't guess and try to muddle through.
- Use care and caution when lifting. Know your lifting limits and do not attempt to exceed them.
- The few minutes it takes to get assistance or equipment to help lift the load can prevent immeasurable pain.
- Practice good housekeeping. Good housekeeping reduces hazards in the workplace. Always put away tools and equipment. Keep floors and aisles clean and clear, pick up scraps, and wipe up spills.
- Wear the right clothing. Work clothes should fit properly. Anything that can catch in machinery or trip you up is hazardous. Wear protective clothing and equipment as required.
- Don't be a prankster. Practical jokes and horseplay can be dangerous especially around machinery.
- Reporting is important. Never fail to report accidents, defective equipment, and unsafe conditions.
- Be a positive part of the team for safety. Willingly accept and follow safety rules and encourage others to do the same.

This Toolbox Talk provides general guidelines for voluntary use by employers and is not intended to provide all necessary safety information and precautions for specific workplace operations and situations. The American Supply Association assumes no responsibility or liability for the use of the information provided.

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