



OCTOBER 2015

Safety off the Job

Most workers have had some type of work-related safety training. Unfortunately, many of us think nothing of taking shortcuts at home! A recent study revealed that accidents away from work accounted for more than 70 percent of all deaths and more than 55 percent of all injuries to employees.

To avoid accidents, you and your family members must take a pro-active approach toward safety 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Be sure everyone can recognize the wide range of hazards they face everyday.

Where do off-the-job injuries and fatalities occur? Many are related to transportation and involve motor vehicles, bicycles, scooters, buses, motorcycles, boats, and pedestrians. Others occur at home and involve firearms, tools, lawnmowers, slips, trips, falls, and drownings.

The following list highlights some of the more common hazards you and your family encounter.

Motor vehicle accidents—Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up, drive defensively, don't drink and drive, avoid using a cell phone, don't speed, and use extreme caution in inclement weather and in work zones.

Falls—Clean up spills, maintain adequate lighting, keep

clutter off the stairs and out of doorways, and use ladders properly.

Fires—Don't smoke in bed, store flammables properly, keep matches and lighters out of children's reach, don't overload electrical circuits, and install and maintain smoke detectors.

Drownings—Always wear a life jacket when on or around the water, learn how to swim, and never leave small children alone near a swimming pool or bathtub, or even an open toilet or bucket of water.

Bathroom accidents—Use night lights, install grab bars near the bathtub and shower, use a nonskid mat in the bathtub and shower, make sure all outlets are protected with GFCI's, and keep all electrical devices away from the sink and tub.

In most cases the safety rules from work apply at home. Follow them and insist that your family does too. Accidents don't discriminate between shortcuts at work and shortcuts at home.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Have an emergency escape plan and practice it regularly.

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED MSDS #

SUBJECT:

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME:

MEETING DATE:

SUPERVISOR:

ATTENDEES:

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.



Weekly Safety Meetings

Safety Training for the Construction Industry
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Edition

OCTOBER 2016

Safety Never Takes a Break

Safety is personal. It isn't just something that comes from on high—from OSHA, or the company safety officer. Your safety is something that's of critical importance to your grandkids, kids, spouse, family, friends, co-workers, and the company. It doesn't matter how many safety signs are posted, or how often you attend Weekly Safety Meetings. Ultimately, safety is about every decision you make every minute of the workday. Sometimes safety is about how other people do their jobs. Safety professional and author, Don Merrell, wrote the following poem about the things that can haunt you when you decide not to speak up and remind co-workers to be safe.

I Chose to Look the Other Way

I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.
It wasn't that I didn't care,
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,
Or argue over a safety rule.
I knew he'd done the job before,
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
I'd done the same, he knew I had.
So I shook my head and walked on by,
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
And with that act, I let him die.
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
I'll know, I should have saved his life.
That guilt is something I must bear,
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
That puts their health or life at stake.
The question asked, or thing you say,
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
Then hope you never have to say,
I could have saved a life that day,
But I chose, to look the other way.

—Don Merrell (dmerrell@hotmail.com)
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SAFETY REMINDER

A Job Safety Analysis (or JSA) takes a little time. The returns on that investment include fewer injuries, increased awareness, and even better scheduling.

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Chemical Labels

OSHA's Hazard Communication (Haz Com) Standard covers all workers exposed to hazardous chemicals in all industrial sectors including construction. An important element of the Haz Com standard is labeling of hazardous chemicals. Labels **must be** in English but it would be wise to include other languages that the crew speaks. **Every** container of the hazardous material must be labeled, tagged or marked with the following information: 1) the identity of hazardous chemical, 2) appropriate hazard warnings—words, pictures, symbols or some combination and 3) the name and address of the manufacturer, importer or other responsible party.

Hazard information is often described using the hazard identification diamond, sometimes called the NFPA diamond. These container labels provide essential health and safety information. The diamond consists of four colors. Red identifies a flammability hazard, yellow identifies a reactivity hazard, blue identifies a health hazard, and white identifies a specific hazard. The colored section indicates the type of hazard present. The number (0-4) in each colored section indicates the level of the hazard. Higher numbers indicate greater hazards. For example, in the health hazard section (blue) 4 means **deadly** (can

cause death or major injury despite medical treatment). 3 means **extremely hazardous** (can cause serious injury despite medical treatment). 2 means **hazardous** (can cause injury and requires immediate medical treatment). 1 means **slightly hazardous** (can cause irritation if not treated). And 0 means **normal material** (no hazard).

Make sure you understand the labeling system we use on this site. You should also be familiar with all chemical handling procedures. Make sure all containers are clearly labeled. Always wear the correct PPE. Wash your hands thoroughly after working with chemicals. Never store flammable or explosive materials near a heat source or open flame.

Read all labels and make sure you understand the symbols on them. If you're not clear about any of the terms or information found on the chemical label, check the MSDS or ask your supervisor for an explanation. It's imperative that you understand the hazards...your life depends on it.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Be aware of other chemical labeling systems such as HMIG or Color Bar.

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