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2024-05-06 TBT Jobsite Etiquette

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Whether you're working on a construction site, meeting customers, or even showing clients around, it's important that you are aware of, and follow, site etiquette.

Guidelines are in place across all construction sites to protect workers and visitors from accidents and injuries. As well as site-specific rules and regulations, there are several general pieces of etiquette that you should follow when visiting any construction or demolition site.

Here's our guide to some of the rules you must follow:

Know who you're meeting

If you are a Site Superintendent or site visitor, make sure you know who you're supposed to be meeting, when, and where. Construction sites can be large and difficult to navigate, so it really helps to know where you need to be. You also will not be permitted to enter the site without having this information.

Check in and check out

When you're visiting a construction site, you must always check in and check out. This is because it's vital that the site management team is able to keep track of who is on and off site in case of emergency, accident, or theft. Projects will also require all visitors to complete a site orientation that includes Safety and Health measures and, to further ensure safety, you will be escorted around the site by a member of the project team.

Don't interfere with the works

If you don't have authority to direct or comment on a project, you shouldn't be interfering with any works whilst you are present on site.

Compliments and concerns are always welcomed and should be directed to Site or Project Management following a site visit.

Don't take videos or photos

Unless you've been told you can take a video or photo during your site visit, you should not be using your phone or any other device to record or take images.

The vast majority of sites contain equipment and materials that are extremely expensive, making privacy a big concern. There may also be confidential materials around the site.

Don't touch anything

Building sites can be extremely dangerous, so Safety and Health is always a top priority. With this in mind, never touch or remove anything from a site. At the same time, you should always be alert when on site and look out for hazards such as exposed nails, low overheads, wet cement and uneven ground. Always follow the site's specific guidelines and requirements.

Safety first

When you're visiting a site, it's vital that you wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including a hard hat, a safety vest, safety glasses when required, hard sole boots, long sleeve top and long trousers.

Depending on the nature of a project, there may also be further site-specific PPE that is required. You will be informed of this prior to your visit or during your site induction.

Finally, make sure you treat all your colleagues with respect and always follow the site's safety guidelines. Whether you're dealing with potential clients, city officials, or subcontractors, building that relationship through professionalism is a must. This sets us all up for success by separating SCS from the rest!

2024-05-13 TBT Repeating History

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In a 1948 speech to the British House of Commons, Winston Churchill said, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it"

We hold Toolbox Talks to learn from history, change our methods, and develop new protocols to assure ourselves and our coworkers that we can ALL have a safe place to work and are able to return to our homes in the same condition as when we left.

Construction is one of the largest industries in the world, and also one of the **most dangerous** according to the National Safety Council. While stricter regulations and growing knowledge have led to improvements in the functionality and reliability of both personal protective gear and construction equipment, working as a field contractor remains a risky profession even in modern times. Think about the day-to-day activities and multiple disciplines working concurrently on any given site. The risk of injury is great and can only be reduced by safe work practices. Being true to our practices, reminding each other and communicating concerns is pivotal for us all to succeed and return home in the safety.

Contractors have always shared responsibility for keeping each other safe on the jobsite. If, (and when) you notice another contractor or coworker not following procedure, tactfully remind them that we are all in this together and WE, collectively, can do any job safely if we follow the guidelines. If a new condition or circumstance arises, bring it to the forefront and we can find a solution to the situation.

As the risks remain, toolbox talks have been and will continue to be a necessity.

In conclusion...

OSHA may not specifically require construction companies to deliver critical safety education in the toolbox talk format. But there is no easier, more flexible way to meet all your training obligations.

Keep field crews safer and empower them to protect themselves and their coworkers from accidents and injury with consistent, relevant toolbox talks. Customize talks to best fit the needs of your current projects and be sure to document both the topics covered and attendance records for future reference.

2024-05-20 TBT Nail Gun Safety

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Six Steps to Nail Gun Safety

1. Use the full sequential trigger to reduce misfires.
2. Provide training to both new and experienced workers.
3. Establish nail gun work procedures. Contractors should develop their own nail gun work rules and procedures to address risk factors and make the work as safe as possible.
4. Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Safety shoes, which help protect workers' toes from nail gun injuries, hard hats, high Impact eye protection and hearing protection.
5. Encourage reporting and discussion of injuries and close calls
6. Provide first aid and medical treatment training.

Know your tool

1. Review the instruction manual especially the safety features
2. Treat the tool as it can go off at any time, always assume it's loaded.
3. Inspect the safety components, hoses, and compressor.
4. Never attempt to bypass the contact tip.
5. Operate the tool at the correct air pressure.
6. Disconnect the air supply when removing a jam or to clean in.

Watch for hazards

1. Avoid areas that don't allow you to properly seat the gun to the surface.
2. Keep your hands at a safe distance from the firing point.
3. Firmly grasp the piece you are trying to nail.
4. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fasten the object.
5. Don't be in a hurry.

How do injuries occur?

1. Accidental or unintended firing, often associated with recoil of the tool after firing, referred to as a "double fire" — second unintended shot
2. Holding finger on contact trigger—nail gun nose can inadvertently contact an object and fire
3. Airborne nails, ricocheting nails, nail missing work surface or penetrating through work surface
4. By-passing safety features and using unsafe work practices
5. Horseplay – avoid using the tool for anything other than what it is intended for.



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2024-05-27 TBT Hand Tool Safety

2024-05-20 TBT Hand Tool Safety (Memorial Day Edition)

Your Hand Tool Safety Checklist

The top 4 hazards related to hand tools:

- Blows and cuts to the hands or other parts of the body.
- Eye injuries due to the projection of fragments or particles.
- Sprains due to very abrupt movements or strains.
- Electrical Contacts.

While working in construction, make sure you practice these 25 tips for basic hand tool safety!

1. ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION.
2. Wear the RIGHT SAFETY EQUIPMENT for the job.
3. Use tools that are the RIGHT SIZE & RIGHT TYPE for your job.
4. Follow the correct procedure for using EVERY tool.
5. Keep your cutting tools SHARP and in good condition.
6. DON'T work with OILY or GREASY hands.
7. Handle SHARP-EDGED and POINTED TOOLS with care.
8. Always carry pointed tools with the points and heavy ends DOWN.
9. SECURE all small work and short work with a vise or clamp.
10. NEVER carry tools in your pockets.
11. DON'T use tools that are LOOSE or CRACKED.
12. KEEP your punches & chisels in good condition. Mushroomed heads can chip & cause injuries.
13. DON'T use a file without a HANDLE.
14. DON'T pry or hammer with a FILE. It may shatter.
15. DON'T use screwdrivers as chisels or pry bars.
16. DON'T try to increase your leverage by using a "cheater" with a wrench. Wrenches need the right strength for their size and length.
17. AFTER USING A TOOL — clean it and return it to its proper storage place.
18. If anything breaks or malfunctions — report it to your supervisor AT ONCE.
19. Use the RIGHT TYPE of tools for the job.
20. NEVER place tools and materials where they hang on the edge of a bench.
21. Don't use tools for jobs they aren't supposed to handle.
22. Store tools and materials vertically, with the points and heavy end down.
23. Cut away from yourself when you use chisels and other edged tools.
24. DON'T FORCE screws; make sure you use the correct screw for the job.
25. Only use OFFICIAL, TESTED repair kits for your tools.

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!

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