

# 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.