

# October 2023

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# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



## **Fire Prevention Week**

### **Stats**

- Local fire departments responded to 1,353,500 fires in 2021. These fires caused 3,800 civilian deaths, 14,700 civilian injuries and \$15.9 billion in property damage.
- Every 23 seconds, a fire department in the US responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 65 seconds, and a home fire occurs every 93 seconds.
- Seventy-five percent of all fire deaths were caused by home fires. 64% from one or two-family homes. 11% from apartment or other multi-family housing.
- One home fire-related death occurs every three hours and eight minutes.

### **Safety Tips**

- Maintain good housekeeping.
  - Minimize accumulation of items that could fuel a fire.
  - Keep pathways clear of debris and other obstructions.
- Be aware of flammable materials/chemicals on site.
  - Keep all containers of flammable liquids closed or covered when not in use.
  - Return them to their designated storage area.
  - Utilize metal safety gas can rather than plastic ones.
- Ensure portable fire extinguishers always remain fully charged and accessible.
- Keep fire doors closed.
  - At home – keep doors closed when you sleep. Can slow spread of fire significantly.
- Smoke detectors
  - Confirm there is one located in every room, and they are in good operating condition.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Don't leave stove top unattended.
- Space heaters need Space.
  - Maintain 3' clearance around them. Consider it kid & pet-free zone.
  - Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Develop an escape plan and establish an agreed upon muster area.

***You were not hired to be a firefighter.  
Only fight a fire if you know how and it is safe to do so!***

# WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS



## **Winter Weather Awareness Toolbox Talk**

*Cold Fact: An average of 1,301 deaths per year were associated with exposure to excessive natural cold. [CDC](#)*

Temperatures near or below freezing and strong winds can cause one's skin and internal body temperatures to fall. Wetness or dampness from body sweat contributes to heat loss. When the body can't warm itself, serious illness and injury may result, leading to permanent tissue damage or death. Types of cold stress that construction workers should be aware of include:

**Trench foot** This is caused by prolonged exposure to wetness and cold temperatures. It occurs when the body constricts the blood vessels to prevent heat loss. This shuts down circulation in the feet. Skin tissue begins to die because of a lack of oxygen and nutrients and a buildup of toxic products. Redness, swelling, numbness and blisters are signs. Workers with signs of trench foot should remove their boots and wet socks, dry their feet, avoid walking, keep their feet elevated and seek medical help.

**Frostbite** This is the freezing of skin and underlying tissue. It can cause permanent injury. In severe cases, it leads to amputation. Workers with frostbite may experience reddened skin that develops into gray or white patches in the fingers, toes, nose, or ear lobes. Other signs are Skin that becomes firm; tingling, aching or loss of feeling; and blisters. A worker with frostbite should be warmed immediately and get medical attention.

**Hypothermia**– This occurs when the normal body temperature (98.6°F) drops to less than 95°F. It can lead to unconsciousness and death. Uncontrollable shivering is an early sign of hypothermia. Additional signs include loss of coordination, confusion, slurred speech and slowed heart rate / breathing. A worker showing signs of hypothermia should be warmed by removing wet clothing and wrapping the worker entirely in layers of blankets and a vapor barrier (tarp or garbage bag). Emergency medical help should be sought. If medical help is more than 30 minutes away, place hot water bottles or hot packs in the armpits and sides of the chest and groin and feed the worker warm liquids.

### **Safe Work Practices for Cold Environments**

- Eliminate or limit work as much as possible when extremely cold temperatures are present.
- Layer up on [clothing](#) and keep clothes dry. It is important to remove any wet clothing or boots and put on dry items when working in a cold environment.



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- Take breaks in warm areas or vehicles as needed.
- Drink warm beverages to help warm up your core temperature.
- Shielding work areas from drafts or wind to reduce wind chill.
- Monitor the condition of other workers around you. If you notice something could be wrong, get them into a warm area and notify a supervisor.

*Preparedness is Key. Pack extra clothing and watch the forecast daily!*

# EMPLOYEE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM



## Employee Compliance Program Toolbox Talk

The Employee Compliance Program has been designed to encourage individuals to improve their performance and align them with S.C. Swiderski's safety culture. If an employee engages in unacceptable performance or conduct, then disciplinary action may be required. In order to maintain a safe and healthy workplace, employees must be cognizant and aware of all company, state, and federal health and safety regulations, as they apply to their job-specific duties.

The following corrective action plan is in effect immediately. It will be applied to health and safety violations unless the seriousness of the violation dictates skipping or repeating certain steps. After 9 months have passed since their previous infraction, the employee will have one corrective action dismissed as it pertains to the corrective action plan. All violations will be documented in Paylocity for recordkeeping.

If an employee knowingly and willingly violates safety rules or procedures, puts themselves or others in imminent danger, or violates company policy, the employee may be discharged immediately.

### **Safety Violation Progressive Discipline:** (SCS Safety Violation Form)

1. Verbal Coaching Conversation **Anyone**
2. Verbal Warning (documented in employee file) **Direct Report**
3. Written Warning **Direct Report**
4. Unpaid suspension (length determined by management) **Human Resources, Safety Specialist, Direct Report, Director of Construction, Senior superintendent, Framing Foreman**
5. Termination **Human Resources, Safety Specialist, Direct Report, Director of Construction, Senior superintendent, Framing Foreman**

### **EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS (not conclusive list):**

- **Not wearing PPE: Hard Hat, High Vis**
- **Not reading Toolbox Talks**





- Operating equipment without training
- Not reporting injuries/incidents
- Not using fall protection were needed
- Creating or knowingly exposing other to safety hazard
- Walking under suspended loads

**\*Failure to report injury/incidents will be subject to further progressive disciplinary action up to and including termination. All accidents and injuries must be verbally reported immediately, and documentation submitted no later than 24 hours. Please note further accident reporting procedures in the Employee Handbook and Safety Portal.**

# EYE PROTECTION

## Eye Protection

OSHA's standards for eye protection are intended to help prevent accidents that can lead to serious injuries caused by a variety of hazards. These hazards include flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, chemical gases, vapors, or light radiation. Even things as simple as a windy day or gravity can blow or drop debris into our eyes.

Here are some of the major requirements of the OSHA standards for eye and face protection that help protect you:

- All eye and face protection devices, such as safety glasses, goggles, and face shields must be marked that they meet or exceed the test requirements of ANSI Z87.1-1989.
- Safety glasses must have side protection built into the design or attachable side shields that meet the above-referenced ANSI standard.
- Workers needing corrective lenses must either wear approved safety glasses with prescription lenses and frames that meet or exceed the above-referenced ANSI standard, or wear approved 'Over the Glasses' over top of their regular prescription glasses.

While there may be many reasons why you do not want to wear safety glasses (i.e., comfortability, they fog up and get dirty, style of glasses, etc.) please consider the consequences should an accident occur on site and you injure one or both of your eyes. It is not worth risking injury to your eyes. Be safe and wear your eye protection.

### Key Points:

1. If you choose to provide/wear your own glasses, they must meet ANSI Z87.1 standards. If tested, Z87 will be stamped on the inside of the frame. Typically on the temple.
2. Whether they are prescription glasses or just standard pair of sunglasses, if your glasses are not Z87 approved, you should not be wearing them on an active job-site.

If you do not have safety glasses, please reach out to your supervisor, site superintendent, crew lead, or safety specialist to request another pair. Michael currently has the following items in stock:

- Clear safety glasses
- Clear readers/cheaters with 1, 1.5, and 2 power
- Dark/tinted glasses
- 'Over the Glasses' and attachable side shields