

Construction Personal Protective Equipment

A SAFETY TALK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings.

Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it.

Seating space is not absolutely necessary, but arrangements should be made so that those attending can easily see and hear the presentation.

Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

DURING THE MEETING

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide.

The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting.

At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

Constriction Personal Protective Equipment

You'll probably never see a football player in a game without a helmet, a baseball catcher playing without a mask or a fire fighter putting out an oil-leldlre without an asbestos suit.

It would be about as unlikely to find an ironworker or any other skilled-trade worker on a major construction project without a hard hat.

However, depending on the job you are performing, there are many other kinds of personal protective equipment and guards that are just as important as the hard hat. Construction is a rugged business with rugged people working in it. Too often we confuse ruggedness with faulty safety practices. We fail to use a guard or protective device when we know better!

Speaking of ruggedness, professional football players take extra precautions; they not only wear every piece of protective equipment but they also make sure that it is in good repair. Their jobs depend on their health and physical condition. Professional football players have plenty of chances to be injured and they're not about to add to those chances by not using the proper protective equipment. Why should you?

Think about the many different jobs you do every day and the number of times you have exposed yourself unnecessarily to hazards because you failed to wear the proper equipment that is provided for your protection.

Your eyes may be exposed to hazards, such as flying objects, vapors, acids, splashing metal, radiant energy, sunlight and glare. That's why there are so many different types of safety goggles, face shields and hoods; they're provided for your protection.

Hands can also be injured by burns, punctures, wounds, abrasions, incised wounds and amputations. Different kinds of protection are needed, including gloves, hand pads, finger guards, rubber gloves and plastic gloves.

The torso may be exposed to injuries, including burns, abrasions, punctures and incised wounds. Additional protection may be required, such as coveralls, wool clothing, a leather or canvas apron or an asbestos suit.

Your lungs can also be exposed to hazards, such as dusts, vapors, heat, smoke, caustics and a lack of oxygen. Respirators, air-supplied hoods and canister-type oxygen masks provide protection.

We must consider the hazards of the work we are performing and the parts of our bodies threatened by them. Then we must obtain and use the necessary protective equipment. Be a pro--protect yourself.