

SAFETY TRAINING LASTS FOREVER



How long have you been in construction? How many toolbox sessions have you attended in the last month? Have you ever been asked to present a toolbox talk to your co-workers?

The construction industry is dangerous, by its very nature. But we can make it less dangerous by attending weekly TOOL-BOX TALKS, or mini-seminars sponsored by your employer.

Training comes in all types and shapes, and is something that we all need to absorb on a daily basis. Learn, learn, learn, is the name of the game.

COACHES TEACH

When a person first tries out for a baseball team, or a football team, or a tennis team, they usually don't have too many skills in that particular sport. But once they are on the team, the coach (and his assistants) goes to the blackboard in the team dressing room, and outlines offensive and defensive skills and techniques.

This is followed up by the team then *going out onto the playing field* where more coaching is given, to perfect your skills, and to apply the blackboard information to the actual field of play.

Perhaps this is how workers in the construction industry perfect their "job skills," as well as their "safety" skills. And you do this same thing every day, every day, every day, until you broaden both your technical skills, and your safety skills as well.

The training that this TOOL-BOX TALK lists is pretty broad, but on a typical construction site *almost all of these safety hazards exist*. Your job is to listen, read, practice, and improve your track record daily.

WHAT DOES OSHA SAY?

OSHA is very clear when it states "...the employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations (OSHA) applicable to his work environment to control (or eliminate) any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury..."

So what topics does OSHA single out for employee training? Here's a lengthy list of "training" that OSHA requires as outlined in the *OSHA 1926 Construction Standards*:

- A -

Aerial Lifts
Asbestos Exposure

- B -

Blasting Hazards
Blasting Signals

- C -

Competent Person (Definition)
Compressed Air Hazard
Confined Space Entry
Crane Operation Safety
Cylinder Handling/Storage

- D -

Demolition Hazards

- E -

Ear Plug/Ear Muff Usage
Explosives Storage
Eye Protection

- F -

Fall Arrest Systems
Fall Hazard Training
Fall Protection
Fire Protection
First Aid/CPR
Flagging
Flammable/Combustible Liquids
Foot Protection
Full Body Harness/Lanyard/Life Line

- G -

Ground Fault Interrupters

- H -

Hazardous Communication
HazCom Hazards
Head Protection Gear
Hearing Protection
Housekeeping

- J -

Jacking Operations

- L -

Ladders
Lead Exposure
Lift-Slab Operations
Lock-Out/Tag-Out

- M -

Masonry Saws
Material Handling Equipment
Material Hoists
Material Safety Data Sheets
Material Handling/Storage

- N -

New Hire Training

- O -

One-Call Notification System
Overhead Power Hazards

- P -

Post-Tensioning Hazards
Powder Actuated tools
Power Tools
Proof of Training

- R -

Respirators
Rollover Protection Devices

- S -

Safety Goggle Use
Safety Nets
Scaffolding
Signs & Tags
Site Clearing
Soils Classification
Stairway/Ladder Safety
Steel Erection Hazards

- T -

Trash Chutes
Trench Shields
Trenching

- U -

Underground Caissons
Underground Utilities

- W -

Welding Hazards
Written Safety Programs

Safety doesn't come easy. There are countless hazards everywhere you look on a construction site. A major part of your job is to recognize these hazards, and then avoid being trapped by that falling load, or that careless forklift operator, or that unguarded trench. Safety is everyone's business, so it's up to you to do your share of "safety preaching"