

Overview

Safety on the job begins with awareness. Toolbox Talks are designed to help you be aware of various job hazards you may encounter. This Talk will help you get the most out of the rest of the Talks and will also help you recognize your and your co-worker's roles in creating and maintaining a safer environment.

For Discussion

Almost everyone understands the importance of safety on the job. After all, nobody wants to get hurt. Unfortunately, accidents can still happen, often simply because we fail to observe basic safety rules and recommendations.

Toolbox Talks are designed to get you thinking about safety. Whether you are brand-new to the industry or have decades of work experience, it is hoped that a few minutes each week spent focusing on safety will help you be a safe, effective employee.

This series of Toolbox Talks was compiled by a committee of electrical contractors, limited energy contractors, safety directors, and IBEW bargaining unit personnel. They tried to consider the needs of most contractors and employees within the electrical and limited energy contracting industry.

Each safety talk includes a number on the bottom left-hand side representing the week number in the current year. All contractors should follow this schedule so that even if you move from employer to employer, you won't repeat a talk more than once a year.

Your foreman or supervisor should set aside some time each week to review a Toolbox Talk. Read through the talk as a group. Then take a few

minutes to have a discussion about the topic. Think about the following questions, especially in relation to the day's topic:

- Have you ever had a personal experience with an unsafe practice on the job?
- Can you think of any potentially unsafe areas or practices on your jobsite?
- What can you do to decrease the chances of injury on your jobsite?

Obviously, Toolbox Talks are only one small part of safety on the job. You and all of your coworkers share responsibility for a safe jobsite. Together you can make your environment safer. Remember the following:

- If you have any suggestion for making the job a safer place to work, don't keep it to yourself.

Tell your co-workers or a supervisor.

- If you see something wrong, don't pass the buck. If you can't correct it easily yourself, report it and make sure it is taken care of.
- If a task is too big for someone to handle alone, give a hand. Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Think about the other person. His safety may depend on you!

Questions

1. Have you ever had a personal experience with an unsafe practice on the job?
2. Can you think of any potentially unsafe areas or practices on your jobsite?
3. What can you do to decrease the chances of injury on your jobsite?