

Responsibilities to Yourself and Others

Toolbox Talk Presenter's Introduction

The Health and Safety at Work Act and the Construction Regulations state that everyone must take responsibility for Health and Safety:

You must ensure you take reasonable care in your working practises, insofar that no-one, including yourself, suffers because of your actions.

EMPLOYERS

Your employer must provide you with a safe place of work, safe equipment and the necessary instruction and training to enable you to carry out your work safely.

EMPLOYEES

You must take reasonable care to ensure that no person – yourself included – suffers because of the way you work.

Where these responsibilities are not carried out, people can be injured or killed, others could be prosecuted. Over 1000 people are killed every year at work, several thousands are seriously injured. Fines can be thousands of pounds for companies who break the regulations.

You must help your employer to carry out your responsibilities by:

- Not interfering with items provided for your safety.
- By using equipment given to you for your protection and by not abusing it e.g. helmets, goggles, hearing protection.
- By telling your supervisor of any hazards that you notice which could affect your safety or the safety of others.
- Report all improvement opportunities no matter how insignificant you think they are.
- Fully understanding the instructions that are given. IF IN DOUBT - ASK!!

Examples:

- If you strike shuttering which leaves an opening, make sure it is covered or guarded before you leave it. The same applies if you are permitted to remove a guard-rail cover for the passage of materials or services, make sure it goes back – DO NOT LEAVE A TRAP FOR OTHERS.
- If you are working or need to pass alongside unguarded openings e.g. floors or excavations, your supervisor must ensure that they are protected even if they are not responsible for making the hazard.

MAKE SURE YOU TELL YOUR SUPERVISOR ABOUT ANY UNSAFE CONDITIONS ON SITE.

ANY QUESTIONS?

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

Q: What should you do if you see a hazard?

Q: Who do you have a responsibility to?

REMEMBER:

CARRY OUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND GO HOME WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE