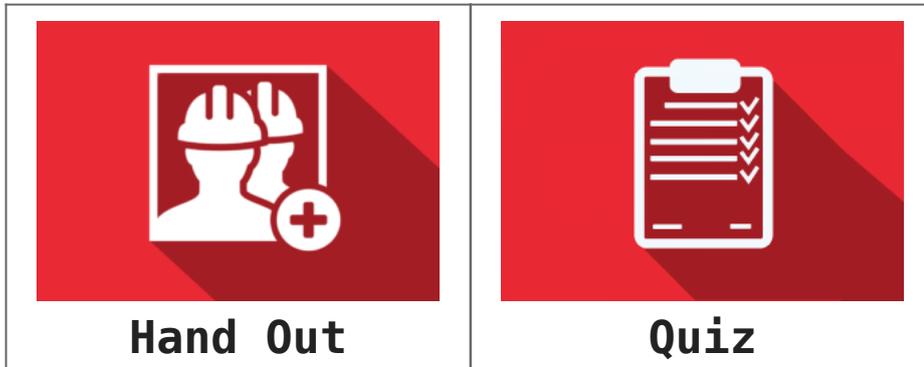


Learn to Think S.A.F.E.

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Safety Talk

Learn to use the S.A.F.E. approach to assess possible hazards in the workplace. This approach can be used in the workspace, and, adapted to everyday life.

No matter what job you are doing, safety is a thought process. So think S.A.F.E., which stands for See, Assess, Fix, and Evaluate. Taking a few moments to think through your task can save a lifetime of pain and regret.

What's at Stake:

There are Standard Operating Procedures for each task you perform in the workplace. Before you start work, if you don't remember these procedures, review them. Then use the S.A.F.E. thought process to assess possible hazards and prepare to work safely.

See the hazards. A hazard is anything that may cause damage, harm or adverse health effects to something or someone under certain conditions. There are seven types of hazards:

What Can Go Wrong:

A company trying to continue its five-year perfect safety record showed workers a film aimed that encouraged the use of safety goggles on the job. Unfortunately, the gory incidents depicted by

the film were so graphic that three workers suffered minor injuries in their rush to leave the screening room, four others fainted, and one man required two stitches after a fainting coworker fell on him.

How to Protect Yourself:

EXAMPLES OF HAZARDS AND THEIR EFFECTS		
Workplace Hazard	Example of Hazard	Example of Harm Caused
Thing	Knife	Cut
Substance	Diesel fuel	Burns, fire
Material	Asbestos	Mesothelioma
Source of energy	Electricity	Shock, electrocution
Condition	Wet floor	Slips, falls
Process	Welding	Metal fume fever
Practice	Livestock handling	Trampling, getting kicked or crushed

Assess the risk from the hazards. "Risk" is a measure of how likely it is that an incident will occur and the expected severity of injuries. Risk is rated as either being high, medium or low. By assessing and rating the risks, you can prioritize hazards that need immediate action over those that can be monitored and fixed later.

Fix the hazard. There's a specific order for controlling hazards, as listed below. Many controls are a combination of two or more control types:

- **Elimination:** such as no longer performing a high-risk task or using high-risk equipment.
- **Substitution:** such as using a less toxic chemical or a less noisy piece of equipment.
- **Engineering:** such as ensuring that a hazardous piece of machinery is equipped with guards.
- **Administration:** such as posting warning signs, writing safe

work procedures or altering timing of tasks.

- **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** such as ensuring that you are using hearing protection, safety glasses, safety shoes, etc.

Final Word:

After the appropriate control measures have been taken, monitor the situation and ensure that the actions taken are not creating additional risks. If further control measures are needed, inform your supervisor immediately.