

# Clothing for Construction

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

## BEGINNING 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.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

There's one industry where today's fashions just don't make it, construction! Fancy cloths are likely to get caught or snagged and cause you to fall or to get hurt in some other way. Your clothing should not only be appropriate, but rugged enough to stand up to the use it'll get.

### Keep Your Shirt On

Always wear a heavy duty shirt, preferably long sleeved with the cuffs buttoned at the wrist. Don't wear it loose or baggy. Keep it tucked in to avoid snagging. Your shirt will protect you from sunburn, so keep it on even when the weather is hot. It also will protect you from scrapes and from skin-irritating materials, such as concrete water and poison ivy. Don't wear anything around your neck that can dangle and get caught in machinery.

### **No Baggy Pants**

Wear straight-line pants of proper length without pocket flaps or cuffs. They should not be baggy or so long that your heels get caught in them. You probably can't keep your pants up without a belt. If your belt is too long, cut off the extra length or run it through additional belt loops. In this way it won't get caught and pull you into machinery.

### **Leave Jewelry Home**

One of the most common causes of amputated fingers is jewelry, such as rings, wrist watches and bracelets. It may look nice, but if it gets caught in machinery, you're in for a painful experience.

### **Put Your Best Foot Forward**

Different jobs call for different kinds of foot-wear, but, generally, properly fitted, high top safety boots should be worn. They give you more support than other boots and more protection in case you drop something on your foot where steel-tip footwear should always be required. Wear rubber boots when working in wet material, especially if it's deep. Spreading concrete is a good example.

### **Winter Wear**

During cold weather, two light, woolen shirts are better than one heavy one for warmth. Gloves and hard hat liners are also advisable in cold weather.

### **Dress Right**

When you dress for construction jobs, remember that you're not out to model the latest fashions. Your work clothes may not make you the sharpest dude on the block, but you'll look a lot better than you would if loose clothing or jewelry caused you to get caught in a machine.

## **GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW**

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any safety hazards from any other crews? Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents, near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

## **ENDING THE MEETING**

Circulate Sign-Off Form

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

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Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

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**Comments:**

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