

Color Coding

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

While color is one of the most effective on-the-job safety devices used, it should always be employed in combination with clearly printed labels. All workers should be familiar with the color plan and color coding used by their companies. If hazards are identified by a good, consistent color system, and proper orientation and familiarization procedures are followed to acquaint all workers with the color-hazard relationship, the recommended color-code system does not necessarily have to be followed.

The standard color-code system to identify related hazards is:

1. **Red**, for fire apparatus and equipment, safety containers for flammable, and emergency devices like switches for emergency stopping of machinery, stop bars and buttons.

2. **Orange**, for potentially dangerous parts of machinery or equipment that may cut, crush, shock or otherwise injure a person.
3. **Yellow**, the color of caution, for physical dangers, such as slipping, tripping, falling, caught-between and striking-against hazards.
4. **Green**, the color of safety, for first-aid equipment locations.
5. **Blue**, a caution color, for warning against the use or movement of equipment being repaired or worked on, or the starting of equipment.
6. **Purple**, the basic color for warning of radiation hazards.
7. **Black, white or a combination**, for designating and helping to control traffic movement, and for aisle markings, housekeeping areas and similar areas.

Signs, tags and tickets should follow the same basic colors. Color coding is used extensively in certain piping systems to indicate to workers what the line contains, such as water, steam, electricity, high pressure, air, gases or chemicals. Color coding is also used on industrial gas cylinders, but be advised that different chemicals may use the same color cylinders, chlorine, ammonia, and oxygen are all coded green, for example.

All of you should become thoroughly familiar with the color coding used in your work areas. In addition, it's important that new employees or veteran employees with a new job be acquainted with the system of color-coding.

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?

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

Comments:
