



Accident Prevention

First Day on the Job

by

Barry Cole, Owner

Preferred Safety Products | Preferred Safety Consulting

BarryCole@PreferredSafety.com | 303.477.8414

It's your first day on the job. Whether you're experienced or a beginner, there are things you need to know. Most importantly, safety begins with you. Shortcuts and taking chances will not be tolerated.

Is there a fire protection plan? What are you supposed to do in case of a fire? Are there fire extinguishers available? Here again you need to ask your supervisor these questions. What happens if you have an accident? Who will provide first aid? Where do you go for treatment? All accidents must be reported to your supervisor immediately, no matter how slight. Accident prevention is part of your job. Report any unsafe conditions or practices to your supervisor. Remember, you must be authorized to operate or repair machines or equipment.

If you need to know about personal protective equipment, ask your supervisor about hard hats, safety glasses, and protective footwear. Does the job have special fall protection rules? What about hazardous chemicals? Are there any on the site? Where are they stored? Will you be required to work with or around any of these? Where can you find a copy of an MSDS if you need one? So many questions, but it is up to you to get the correct answers.

Another subject you need to know about is housekeeping. Good housekeeping is a must for a safe work environment; it prevents accidents and fires and creates a businesslike work place. We must all work on housekeeping on a continuous, day-to-day basis. Don't let it become a job that gets done "sometime" or "when I get a chance." Remove or repair dangerous conditions if you have the proper training and point out those conditions beyond your training to your supervisor. Deposit all trash and scrap in the proper containers.

Many activities on a construction site require a competent person. Some activities that may require a competent person include excavating, trenching, entering confined spaces, using scaffolds or fall protection, and some electrical work. Should you have a question in these areas ask the competent person. Remember, you need to be able to answer all of these questions - whether you're a brand-new worker or just new to this job. Your life may depend on the answers.

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American Subcontractors Association Colorado

3575 South Sherman Street, Suite 3 | Englewood, CO 80113

303.759.8260 | DScifo@ASAColorado.com