Construction

Nearly 6.5 million people work at approximately 252,000 construction sites across the nation on any given day. The fatal injury rate for the construction industry is higher than the national average in this category for all industries.

**THE CAUSE OF OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES**

It has been found that as many as

88%

of workplace injuries are caused by unsafe acts committed by the workers

**Most Unsafe Acts are Difficult to Predict, Recognize, Prevent, and Correct**

**The Most Common Unsafe Acts include**

- Improper Use of Personal Protective Equipment [PPE]
- Failure to Use PPE - Either Willingly or Through Lack of Proper Care
- Use of Defective Equipment
- Removal, or Failure to Use, of Safety Devices
- Operation of Equipment at Unsafe Speeds
- Operation of Equipment without Proper Authorization, Training and/or Qualifications

Unsafe Behavior Patterns are Usually More Common among Skilled Employees
UNSAFE ACTS vs UNSAFE CONDITIONS

IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT UNSAFE ACTIONS, MORE SO THAN UNSAFE CONDITIONS ARE THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS.

Unsafe Act

Performance of a task or other activity that is conducted in a manner that may threaten the health and/or safety of workers

Unsafe Condition

A condition in the work place that is likely to cause property damage or injury.

Unsafe conditions exist all around us:

Simply driving a car puts each one of us in a condition where we are vulnerable to accidents. We are surrounded by hazards that could cause harm, but most of the time we safely negotiate these hazards and arrive at our destination safely.

Unsafe acts:

More difficult to recognize and correct because they involve human factors. For example, snow creates an unsafe condition to drive in, but that hazard is magnified by driving in the snow without slowing down or by not maintaining safe distances. The act of driving too fast and not leaving safe stopping distances makes an unsafe condition even worse.

Unsafe acts are linked to our behavior:

How we behave (our actions) may not be related to our skill level. In other words, some of our most skilled employees might actually display some of the most dangerous behaviors. In fact, some studies have shown that the more skilled a worker becomes, the more likely they are to develop unsafe behavior patterns.

Unsafe Acts

- Operating equipment without qualification or authorization
- Lack of/or improper use of PPE
- Operation equipment at unsafe speeds
- Failure to warn
- Bypass or removal of safety devices
- Using defective equipment
Unsafe Conditions

- Defective tools, equipment or supplies
- Inadequate supports or guards
- Congestion in the workplace
- Inadequate warning systems
- Fire and explosion hazards
- Poor housekeeping
- Hazardous atmospheric conditions

Questions to Generate Discussion:

What is the difference between an unsafe act and an unsafe condition?
Are there any unsafe conditions in your establishment that could be made worse by unsafe acts?

Reasons for Unsafe Acts

There are many reasons individuals do unsafe acts while at work. Some common drivers behind unsafe acts include:

- **Taking shortcuts**– One of the most obvious reasons unsafe acts occur is because individuals take shortcuts when completing their work. Whether it is because of time pressures, laziness, lack of supervision, etc. taking shortcuts can lead to injuries.

- **Being complacent**– Complacency is one of the hardest things to address in the workplace. Most of us have been doing the same job or work tasks for many years. As time goes on, we get comfortable with the work and are not as diligent in addressing the hazards of the work.

- **Overconfidence**– Much like complacency, overconfidence can come from experience on the job. It can also come from inexperience. Overconfidence during a work task, familiar or brand new, leads to unsafe acts.

- **Ignoring rules or procedures**– Most of the time we all know what the rules or procedures for a work task are. Through trainings, conversations, warning labels, etc. we know what we are supposed to do. However many workers choose to forgo safety rules and procedures for a variety of reasons including the other reasons mentioned here.

- **Poor attitude**– Often times the source of unsafe acts can be boiled down to poor attitudes. Those individuals who have poor attitudes when it comes to work or safety at work will show it through their behavior.

Report all unsafe conditions and unsafe acts to your supervisor so that we don’t have Coroner vans showing up at your worksite
Hazard Communication

Hazard: Failure to recognize the hazards associated with chemicals can cause chemical burns, respiratory problems, fires and explosions.

Solutions:

- Maintain a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each chemical in the facility.
- Make this information accessible to employees at all times in a language or formats that are clearly understood by all affected personnel.
- Train employees on how to read and use the MSDS.
- Follow manufacturer's MSDS instructions for handling hazardous chemicals.
- Train employees about the risks of each hazardous chemical being used.
- Provide spill clean-up kits in areas where chemicals are stored.
- Have a written spill control plan.
- Train employees to clean up spills, protect themselves and properly dispose of used materials.
- Provide proper personal protective equipment and enforce its use.
- Store chemicals safely and securely.

HazCom - 5 key elements:

- Materials inventory;
- Safety data sheets;
- Labeling;
- Written program; and.
- Training.

Attached:
§5194. Hazard Communication.
(h) Employee Information and Training.
HazComm Reporting Form

Refer to BCA IIPP
Chapter 8.0 HAZARD ASSESSMENT - CORRECTION
**HazComm Reporting Form**

Date:  
Site Location:  

SDS Hazardous Chemical  
Owner: City Dept.  
Owner: Contractor:  
Project Name:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>Includes product identifier; manufacturer or distributor name, address, phone number; emergency phone number; recommended use; restrictions on use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hazard identification</td>
<td>Includes all hazards regarding the chemical; required label elements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>Includes information on chemical ingredients; trade secret claims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>First Aid measures</td>
<td>Includes important symptoms/effects, acute, delayed; required treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fire Fighting</td>
<td>Lists suitable extinguishing techniques, equipment; chemical hazards from fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Accidental release</td>
<td>Lists emergency procedures; protective equipment; proper methods of containment and cleanup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Handling/storage</td>
<td>Lists precautions for safe handling and storage, including incompatibilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Exposure controls</td>
<td>Lists OSHA’s Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs); ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLVs); and any other exposure limit used or recommended by the chemical manufacturer, importer, or employer preparing the SDS where available as well as appropriate engineering controls; personal protective equipment (PPE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Physical/Chemical properties</td>
<td>Lists the chemical’s characteristics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Stability/reactivity</td>
<td>Lists chemical stability and possibility of hazardous reactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Toxicological info</td>
<td>Includes routes of exposure; related symptoms, acute and chronic effects; numerical measures of toxicity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED SIGNATURES (Acknowledgement for Receipt of SDS Info and Training)**

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Training may be performed by either the employee’s supervisor, BCA Safety Engineer or the Contractor

*A copy of this form must be sent to the BCA Safety Engineer within 7 days*

Supervisor shall attach a copy of the SDS to this submittal