

GENERAL SAFETY

In the workplace there are hazards all around. Understanding some of the basic hazards will assist you in keeping you safe. Even if you sit at a desk for most of your job, you could encounter a safety hazard. Being prepared will help you avoid these hazards.

Keep Safety in Mind

Hand and power tools, ladders, and chemicals are such a common part of the job that we often take them for granted. However, their use can be extremely hazardous if the right safety procedures are not followed. To keep yourself safe, follow these basic rules

Here are the top 5 things you need to know about general safety.

1. Hand tools

Inspect the tools for the following issues:

- Damaged cords
- Missing cord prong
- Guards are in place
- No defects

Ensure that you are wearing the proper PPE.

2. Ladders

Use the ladder properly. Don't reach. Use 3-point contact climbing. Inspect the ladder before use. Look for damage, and wear and tear. Never use the top step or the top platform.

3. Slips and trips

Keep your area dry. Sweep your area clean. Dry powder can cause slips. Keep your area free from trip hazards. Tape down cords.

4. Proper Lifting

Keep your back straight. Lift with your legs. Keep the load close to your body. Keep your head up while lifting. Get a helper if the load is too heavy.

5. Chemicals

All chemicals should be labeled. All Chemicals should have a SDS (Safety Data Sheet). Use the Appropriate PPE when using chemicals. Look at the pictograms to know what kind of hazard it is.

Discussion

1. What other general safety topics would you add to the list?

2. Can anyone share an experience relating to this topic?

