

# Tool Box Talk

## Working Alongside Other Trades

It's common for various trades to operate near one another on a jobsite. This makes the collaboration of safety crucial to prevent incidents from occurring.

### Identifying Hazards

When multiple trades work close to one another, it can introduce a new range of hazards that demand our attention:

- 1. Trip and Slip Hazards:** Tools, materials or debris belonging to or left behind by other trades might create potential tripping hazards if not managed properly.
- 2. Mechanical and Chemical Hazards:** Ongoing work by different trades could introduce electrical, mechanical or chemical hazards that could affect nearby workers.
- 3. Limited Visibility Risks:** Heavy equipment or materials may obstruct line-of-sight, leading to collisions or accidents.
- 4. Restricted Access/Egress:** Confined spaces or restricted access points might emerge due to ongoing work by other trades. This can cause access/egress issues and limit emergency exit routes.

### Safety Measures

- 1. Effective Communication:** Establish and maintain clear communication channels among different trades. Regularly schedule meetings to discuss work plans, potential hazards and safety protocols. An example of this would be a weekly trades coordination meeting or a pre-job hazard assessment.
- 2. Site Familiarization:** Take the time to thoroughly understand the layout of the work area. Participate in site-specific orientations to review potential and present hazards. Be aware of other trades' work schedules and how that might impact your work.
- 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Always wear the appropriate PPE, including high-visibility clothing, hardhats, boots, safety glasses and gloves to safeguard against potential hazards.

**4. Maintain Housekeeping Standards:** Housekeeping is a joint effort of all trades on site. Keeping areas clear from debris and well-lit can eliminate common trip hazards.

**5. Use Signage and Barricades:** Use warning signs, barricades, or barriers to clearly mark out hazardous areas. This prevents unauthorized access to your work area when necessary. (Ensure you have a contact number for lockout areas).

**6. Tool and Equipment Safety:** Properly store tools and equipment when not in use. Ensure they're kept in designated areas to prevent obstructions or potential hazards for other trades.

**7. Remain Observant:** Maintain continuous awareness of your surroundings. Watch out for any changes or unexpected hazards introduced by other trades.

**8. Adhere to Procedures:** Strictly follow established procedures and safety protocols, especially those pertaining to working around other trades.

### Reporting and Addressing Concerns

If you observe any unsafe conditions or potential hazards caused by other trades:

- Stop work and immediately report the issue to your supervisor and/or safety officer.
- Take necessary precautions to prevent accidents or injuries until the concern is addressed.

Remember: safety is everyone's responsibility. If you see something, say something.

### Conclusion

Working alongside other trades demands proactive engagement, consistent awareness and open communication. By following these safety measures and staying alert, we can ensure a safer work environment for everyone involved. Remember, our collective safety relies on each individual's actions and awareness.