

TOOLBOX TALK, May 27th, 2025

**Training:**

Sign up for trainings at [www.swmsctf.org](http://www.swmsctf.org) or check schedules at [www.fsstools.com](http://www.fsstools.com). Carpenters have MEWP/Aerial Lift on the 31st in Portland and Tangent. Tapers have nothing scheduled. You can find your training records at [www.fsstools.com](http://www.fsstools.com) under the training records tab.

**Housekeeping:**

In the last few weeks, we've had two workers step on screws and nails that punctured their feet. Looking at the causes of both, housekeeping comes into focus. Our workers stepped on nails and screws that were dropped on the floor and not cleaned up right away.

It's been proven that good housekeeping can eliminate unsafe conditions before someone gets hurt. If there's nothing to trip on, step on, slip on, get poked with, or cut by, we're bound to be safer.

Good housekeeping starts by looking at our work areas for hazards, then taking the action needed to make our space safe and efficient, then the rule is, clean as you go.

When we practice good housekeeping, our jobs go better, production increases and we have fewer injuries.

**Safely Securing Loads:**

We may not load trucks very often but when we're called on to load one, it's important we know how to secure the load safely.

Recently we had two pallets of fireproofing fall from a flatbed truck into the middle of an intersection. Losing a load like this is not only inefficient, but also dangerous. Imagine if the load had dropped on a car or hit a pedestrian, think of the harm that it could have caused.

This is why we need to plan how we tie down loads. First, we want to load trucks so the load is balanced and can be tied down using the attachment points on the frame of the truck, or in the case of a box truck where it can be tied off against a wall or the front of the truck.

Using the right straps for the load we're carrying is important. Light weight straps may work for small loads, but when we're securing pallets or other heavy loads the straps must be stronger. Always use a heavy enough strap to tie down a load.

Loads can shift, so we should check our tie downs more than once and tie things down in a way to prevent the straps from becoming loose and letting the load shift. This may mean using hard material like 2x4s or plywood between the load and the straps to stabilize and hold the load firm.

Securing a load may not be something we do every day, so if we don't feel confident with our tie down skills, ask for help. It's not worth taking a chance. Losing a load is never good and could really hurting someone.

**Innovation rewards:**

Your innovations can make a difference, so when ideas hit, let us know. Innovation rewards are based on the innovation and whether we adopt it into regular use. If you come up with a great idea, let your foreman know and we'll test it out.

Submit your toolbox talk report by clicking on this link: <https://www.fsstools.com/blank-10>

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