

TOOLBOX TALK, August 4th, 2025

### **Oaks Park Picnic:**

The Summer Picnic at Oaks Park on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. is right around the corner. The picnic will go from 11:00 – 5:00 and will be in Picnic area #11. If you haven't let us know you're coming, please let your foreman know right now.

### **What we need to know:**

- **Who is coming?** Your Name– number of people coming with you
- **What are they going to eat?** How many adult BBQ orders and how many kids hot dog orders.
- **How many of what type of ride bracelets are needed?** Ride bracelets are for kids under 48” tall and anyone over 48” tall. Specify how many of each are needed.

### **How're we doing?**

Strains and strains are down this year by nearly 32% compared to last year and eye injuries are down almost 26%, but cuts have more than doubled and near misses are up too. So, what does this tell us about how we're doing?

What it says is that we're getting better *and* we still have work to do. There's always room for improvement.

No matter how much we improve, this is a marathon not a sprint. We should celebrate the wins, but we must always hold our focus on what needs improvement.

Better, clearer, and more thoughtful pre-task planning helps us look before we leap which gives us a safer foundation and produces better results. Wearing required PPE and safe policies can make the difference between a significant injury and walking away unscathed.

No single thing we do guarantees we'll always be safe, but together, following safe procedures makes a difference. We don't just make policies to keep safety companies in business, the gear and procedures required by our policies, respond to known problems and are in place to keep us from injuring ourselves. We're not out to get you, we're here to protect you.

### **Following the Rules**

Walking a job this morning the GC reminded me of their policy on buckling chin straps on helmets and always wearing safety glasses. I was concerned that some of our workers were playing cat and mouse games to avoid following basic PPE policies. Our policies are clear and in the GC orientation for this job they made their policies clear too. We wear our PPE, follow safe procedures, and do pre-task planning, these are not optional.

### **Never Modify Fall Protection Gear:**

While checking harnesses that had returned from jobs, I found five out of ten harnesses with trauma straps missing. What this says is that some of us are removing these from our harnesses. Every piece of fall protection gear is designed to save your life if you fall. Altering fall protection gear could make that impossible. It may seem like no big deal while you're safe on a solid ground, but if you fall, everything changes. It's not up to you to make decisions about what safety gear you want to use and what gear you don't. The point is, never modify fall protection gear.

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