

TOOLBOX TALK, February 24th, 2025

Training:

To sign up for trainings go to www.swmsctf.org or check at www.fsstools.com under training schedules. There are currently no classes scheduled for carpenters. Tapers have Fall Protection and First Aid/CPR coming up on March 24th so sign up if you need an update.

PTP Competition

At the end of March, we'll be selecting another winner for our PTP competition. Show us your best PTP and we'll enter you. We're getting better, but we can always improve and now's the time to show it.

Hearing Protection:

Once we lose our hearing, it never comes back. Our ability to hear is critical to our safety, and important in all areas of our lives, so protecting our hearing is paramount. To best protect this important resource, there are a few steps we can take. By following the Hierarchy of Noise Controls, we will better protect ourselves from the irreversible problem of hearing loss.

- **Eliminate the Noise:** Eliminating noise is the most effective thing we can do. If we can do a task in a way that creates less noise it can save our hearing.
- **Use Quieter Equipment:** We use the best equipment possible, but some tasks are louder than others. Roto hammers, are just loud, but some tasks can be done by substituting a quieter tool. For instance, using double cuts instead of a grinder or screamer.
- **Control Noise Hazards:** When possible, isolating the hazard is the best we can do. Noise can be isolated by putting it in an enclosed space (bubble) or isolating it in a room where a door can be closed. This is not always possible, but when it is, it should be considered.
- **Controlling our Exposure Limits:** Since the amount of time, we're exposed to noises factors into our safety, another way to control noise hazards is by controlling the length of our exposure. It's considered safe during an eight-hour day to be exposed to a noise level of 85 decibels. With an increase of just 3 decibels the safe exposure limit is cut in half and for every 3-decibel increase, the exposure limit is cut in half again. So, at 94 decibels our exposure limit is reduced to just one hour without hearing protection. For reference chop saws produce 110 decibels, screamers generate 115 decibels.
- **Protective PPE:** Ear plugs or earmuffs provide protection by reducing the decibel levels that reach our ears. PPE is needed if no other controls are possible. If we know we have hearing loss, via our hearing program, we may be required to wear hearing protection while we're working.

Protecting our hearing is important in our work life and at home, so be aware and take care.

Innovation rewards:

We know you're always thinking of more effective and safer ways to do things and want to reward you for your great innovations. When a stroke of genius hits, take advantage of it by submitting your idea.

To encourage great ideas, we're offering twenty-five-dollar gift cards for ideas we use. And if you win a twenty-five-dollar prize, your name goes into a drawing for the yearly prize of two hundred and fifty dollars.

Submit your toolbox talk report by clicking on this link:

<https://www.fsstools.com/blank-10>

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