

TOOLBOX TALK, August 19th, 2024.

Overhead Work

It's always important to evaluate conditions, especially when getting ready to do overhead work. To protect our eyes, we must wear specific PPE. Gasketed safety glasses and face shields are our best options when there's a chance of debris falling in our faces. It's the foreman's responsibility to have the right PPE available on the job, and our responsibility to protect ourselves by using the correct PPE.

Suggestion Box

A suggestion box has recently been added to fsstools.com. You can make anonymous suggestions, or you can let us know the suggestion is coming from you. We hope you share ideas on how we can improve.

Hazardous Energy

In our safety committee meeting we talked about recognizing stored energy and one of the comments was that when thinking of stored energy, the first, and sometimes only, thing that comes to mind is electricity. Though electricity is most often associated with the word energy, there are many more kinds of stored energy than just electrical.

Think of a wrench set down on the edge of a platform. If it's possible to bump it over the edge, the potential of gravity taking over is a form of stored energy.

If we're working on a building with a post-tensioned concrete slab, we're working around stored energy. This is not electrical, but it has the potential to become dangerous if we drill into the slab and break a cable.

Below is a sample of potentially hazardous energies:

- *Electrical – Power cords, power tools, cracked battery casings*
- *Mechanical – post-tensioned concrete, power tools*
- *Gravity - Falling objects, slips, trips*
- *Chemical – Flammable vapors, combustibles, dusts*
- *Pressure – Sprinkler heads, pneumatic/hydraulic equipment*
- *Biological – Insects, bloodborne pathogens, bacteria*
- *Thermal – Fresh cut metal, weather conditions*
- *Motion – Flying debris, equipment, pushing, pulling*
- *Sound – Chop saw, shotgun, high pressure release*
- *Radiation – Welding, laser use*

Can you name others?

Potentially hazardous energy is all around us, and it's not just electrical. Good pre-task planning helps us recognize hazards associated with stored energy, and should lead to mitigating recognized hazards before they can harm us.

Do you see any potential hazards from where you're standing right now?

How will you mitigate those hazards?

