

## TOOLBOX TALK, January 26th, 2026

### Training

There are no union trainings available in January.

Check your records at [fsstools.com](https://fsstools.com) under the *Training Records* tab to see what you need.

When they're available, sign up for classes, at the union training site or check schedules at [fsstools.com](https://fsstools.com).

### Hazard Recognition

Over the past couple of months, we've had two **Fatal Four near misses** on our jobsites. The Fatal Four are the leading causes of serious injuries and deaths in construction: **falls, being struck by objects, electrocutions, and getting caught in or between equipment or materials that can crush us**. Most of the time, these incidents happen because we don't fully recognize the hazards around us or stop to plan how to protect ourselves.

It's easy to remember the common hazards that come with using a certain tool or doing a specific task. What's harder—and more important—is stopping to look at what's happening **right here, right now**, and dealing with the hazards in front of us before we get started. Taking that extra moment can make all the difference.

In both of our recent cases, workers were exposed to fall hazards that could have been deadly. In each situation, the worker didn't stop to think about what could happen if they fell. If they had truly imagined the consequences and how serious they could be, chances are they wouldn't have taken the risk.

So how often do we go blind to the hazards around us? Are there nails or screws we could step on? Are there holes we could trip on, or fall into? Sharp edges or impalement hazards? An unprotected leading edge? And more importantly, did we stop to think about what the cost would be—to us or a coworker—if one of those hazards got us?

When we learn to drive, we're taught defensive driving—watching out for the other guy and anticipating what they might do that could affect us. We need that same mindset on the jobsite. What's out there, and how could it hurt us?

Partial hazard awareness isn't enough to keep us safe. It's time to open our eyes, recognize the risks, and act **before** something goes wrong.

### Safety Wins

It's important to celebrate our wins, and last year we had a big one. We ended 2025 with just **one recordable incident**—something we haven't achieved since 2012. Even more impressive, our total manhours in 2025 reached **206,200**, compared to **147,399** in 2012. This makes the accomplishment even more significant.

Another major safety win came from **Tom Kirk**, who identified a potential asbestos exposure while performing demolition work on his jobsite. Although the area had been tested for asbestos and lead, Tom noticed smaller floor tiles and black mastic where they were not expected after an old floor was removed. He immediately stopped work and contacted the safety team. Further testing confirmed asbestos at unacceptable levels. The material was properly abated, and work was able to safely continue.

We love hearing about successes like these. If you have a safety win to share, please let us know at [www.fsstools.com/suggestionbox](https://www.fsstools.com/suggestionbox)