

TOOLBOX TALK, February 10th, 2025

### **Training:**

To sign up for trainings go to [www.swmsctf.org](http://www.swmsctf.org) or check at [www.fsstools.com](http://www.fsstools.com) under training schedules. Classes in February are First Aid/CPR/AED on the 15th, and Construction Fall Protection on the 22nd. Contact the Carpenter's Union Training Center to schedule classes.

### **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.

### **COVID in 2025**

The CDC has dropped pandemic covid protocols. We can now treat covid more like the flu. Stay away from work when you're sick and don't return until you're no longer contagious.

### **Communication**

When we communicate well, we're safer. Like proper PPE and working tools, good communication is a key component to staying safe.

How we communicate potential hazards, our expectations and how we plan to perform our work, make a difference to those we work with. Foremen's meetings, pre-task planning, daily huddles and orientations are ways we communicate globally, but how we communicate with our partner and those working directly around us is important too.

**LISTENING** – Good communicators are great listeners. On the job, listening means understanding the work being done around us, the needs of others and our place in the overall working environment. Listening includes visual and audio cues, like flags, signs and whistles. When listening, be sure to respond with acknowledgments like, “I see”, “I understand,” or “OK”.

**DELIVERING A CLEAR MESSAGE** – Effective communicators deliver clear messages through words and body language. Make sure we have the attention of the people we're intending to communicate with. Agree on terms. (my right or your right?) Use clear language and body signals. Make direct eye contact to confirm the message is received.

**BE RESPECTFUL**– While strong words and body language can show leadership, it's also important to show respect. Intimidation, interrupting, insulting, or belittling are sure fire ways to shut down communication.

Keys to effective communication come down to listening to others, making ourselves clear, and confirming our message has been understood. Being a good communicator can reduce misunderstandings, and injuries, as well as improve production.

### **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.

We know you're always thinking, so tell us what on your mind so we can give you credit for your amazing ideas.

**Submit your toolbox talk report by clicking on this link:**

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

