

# TOOLBOX TALK, August 12th, 2024.

## Air Quality

OSHA's Wildfire Smoke standards are in effect due to the multiple fires across the state and based on the new Air Quality Index (AQI) rules. When the AQI rises to levels between 101 and 276 we will provide NIOSH-approved N95 dust masks for voluntary use. Currently we're monitoring the AQI at least daily to assure we're providing protections against poor air quality and in response, we'll implement safety protocols according to OSHA standards. Current AQI for your location can be found at [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).

## Summer Picnic

The company picnic is on August 24<sup>th</sup> at Oaks Park. Please respond quickly to Katie if you're coming and let her know how many people you're planning to bring. Let us know how many are coming to the picnic and how many 48" or taller or 48" or shorter bracelets you'll need.

## Clean and Safe

"Clean as You Go" may have lost some meaning through repetition, but it's just as important now as it was the first time we heard it. "Clean as You Go" means working to incorporate clean and safe behaviors into our regular work process. Small messes, cleaned up frequently, are not only faster to clean up but they help us maintain a clean and safe workplace.

Here are some areas we've seen problems:

- **Cut stations.** Cut off metal and metal shavings can make our workstations more dangerous by increasing the possibility of cuts and eye injuries.
- **Tangled and disorganized cords.** Cords running across walk paths or work areas are a hazard. When possible, route cords overhead, or around work areas. If this isn't possible, we may be able to use cones or other markers to warn of hazards. Never run cords over sharp bottom track edges.
- **Screws and cut off metal on the floor.** Screws, cut off pieces of all-thread or metal can become trip/slip hazards. These items are also a real danger to anyone working on stilts.
- **Disorganized material laydown.** Material stacked so it could fall, loaded so what we have to sort or restack, or placed too far away from our work, can play into unsafe and unproductive jobs.
- **Powder actuated tools.** Powder actuated tools left loaded and unattended are dangerous. Leaving loads around without controlling access, can lead to problems too.
- **Water, mud or dust on the floors.** These kinds of slip hazards should be cleaned up immediately to ensure that no one will slip or fall.

One of the best ways to keep safe is to be aware of the potential hazards we face, and to stay ahead of them by keeping our workspaces clean and clear.

**When should we clean up our work area?**

**How do we dispose of debris and scrap on this job?**

