

TOOLBOX TALK, April 7th, 2025

Training:

Sign up for trainings at www.swmsctf.org or check schedules at www.fsstools.com. In April, Portland carpenters can take Forklift training on the 8th, First Aid/CPR on the 12th, MEWP on the 19th, and Rigger/Signaler on the 21st. In Tangent, carpenters can take MEWP on the 15th. Tapers can take Fall Protection or First Aid/CPR on April 21st, and Lead Awareness on April 23. You can find your training records at fsstools.com under the training records tab, so sign up for classes if you need to refresh your training.

PTP contest winners

Our first quartier winners for best PTPs are Angel Quinten and Mark Hasegawa. Congratulations guys.

Avoiding Injuries

More than a third of our incidents this year have been cuts or punctures, most of which could have been avoided. So how do we prevent these injuries from happening? Let's consider this by looking at the Hierarchy of Controls.

Level one: Elimination

Whenever possible eliminate the hazard completely. An example of eliminating the hazard can be seen in how we have our material delivered. We pay our suppliers to deliver material to our jobs to the exact spot we specify. When we have them do their job, we eliminate the possibility of getting hurt loading in materials. Even if the supplier makes a mistake and it looks easier to do it ourselves, hold our suppliers to the task so we're not exposing ourselves to a hazard.

Level two: Substitution

When possible, substitute a hazardous method with a less hazardous one. For instance, if we're doing work at height, we don't just grab a ladder as our first choice. We substitute a safer way to access our work such as using a baker's scaffold or an MEWP instead of using a ladder. Even if a ladder seems quicker to set up, we know ladders are far less safe, so we don't use them.

Level three: Engineering controls

Engineering controls are things like tool guards and shields. The point of this level of control is to isolate the worker from the hazard by putting an automatic protection in place. A good example of this is the way powder actuated tools require the tool to be compressed against the work while the trigger is pulled. Keeping the tool from firing unless a deliberate action is taken is an example of an engineering control that makes the tool safer.

Level four: Administrative controls

Using warning signs and controlling work areas are examples of this level of protection. Keeping workers away from hazards or warning against them are less effective than many other means but are often necessary ways to protect ourselves and others.

Level five: PPE

Avoiding injury may come down to wearing proper PPE for the task. In a couple of the cases where workers got cut, our policy required wearing cut sleeves for the task. Had workers been wearing sleeves the cuts would almost certainly have been avoided. All required PPE is designed to protect us from known hazards and is required because we know enough about the way injuries happen to know that certain PPE is effective in preventing injuries.

Innovation rewards:

Annual innovation winners will be announced at the All-Hands Meeting coming up on May 8th. Your innovations can make a difference so when ideas hit, let us know and you may be a winner too.

Submit your toolbox talk report by clicking on this link: <https://www.fsstools.com/blank-10>

