

SAFETY ON THE JOBSITE

Safety starts a long time before you show up on the jobsite. Safety begins before the job is even sold. There are steps along the way that can make a difference between you having a long and satisfying career or ending up injured or worse.

Before You Get to the Jobsite.

Plan Wisely. Make sure your site survey is thorough and any hazards are recognized and reported.

Assignments. Always assign enough time, personnel and resources to do the job. It is a safety hazard for crews to improvise, rather than following safe protocols.

Training. Crew chiefs and their employees should be trained not only on safety, but on all of the necessary skills and information they need to do their jobs. They should also understand the right to refuse to put themselves in harms way.

Communication. Clear communication is critical to a safe jobsite, specifically related to language barriers and calling 911.

Equipment. Equipment should be maintained to be safe and operational at all times. If it is broken, chipped, dull, worn out, undersized, or otherwise inadequate, it does not get loaded on the truck. Pay particular attention to ladders!

Working Under the Influence. As obvious as it may be, working under the influence of drugs (legal or otherwise) or alcohol - or knowingly working with someone who is - is extremely unsafe.



On the Jobsite.

Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). You have the equipment for a reason - use it. Depending on the state you work in, if you're injured and chose not to wear PPE, your insurance claim could be rejected.

Physical Capability. Try not to overestimate your strength, or misjudge your fatigue. This also goes for equipment; using undersized equipment can set you up for an accident by tipping over forklifts, dropping beams, etc.

Task Planning. Before rushing to do something, take a moment to think it through. Determine your options and come up with a good, common sense plan. For every one way in, make sure you have two ways out, in case something falls or fails.

Physical Positioning. Don't put yourself in harm's way; always know what is in front, behind, above and below you.

Stay Focused. Try to separate the jobsite from any personal concerns. Any problem you mentally bring to work will only be made worse by dwelling on it, and can take your focus away from the task at hand.

