
Accident Procedures Toolbox Talk

Description

In the high-risk environment of the construction industry, the focus is always on prevention. However, despite our best efforts, accidents can still occur. It's crucial that everyone on site knows what to do in such circumstances to ensure the safety of all involved and to mitigate any potential damage or injury.

Key Points

Reporting Accidents and Near Misses

Every incident, no matter how minor it may seem, should be reported immediately. This includes near misses, which are incidents that could have resulted in an accident but didn't. Reporting these incidents allows us to identify potential hazards and take corrective action to prevent actual accidents.

Knowledge of First Aid Procedures

Knowing basic first aid procedures can be the difference between life and death in a critical situation. Everyone should know who the appointed first-aiders are, how to contact them, and where the first aid kit is located. If you're going to be working away or in a small group, consider taking a small first aid kit with you.

Emergency Services Contact

In the event of a serious accident, it may be necessary to contact the emergency services. All staff should know the best means to contact these services, whether it's by phone or radio.

Dealing with a Casualty

If you encounter a casualty, there are several key steps to follow:

- Remove the hazard from the casualty if it is safe to do so.
- Call for help, preferably a first aider.
- Send someone to phone for an ambulance if necessary.
- Do not move the casualty unless they're in immediate danger.
- Make the casualty as comfortable as possible and remain with them providing reassurance.
- Don't give food or drink to the casualty - moisten lips if necessary.
- Do not allow the casualty to smoke.

Accident Investigation

Accidents and near misses should be investigated to establish the cause and to enable the implementation of procedures to prevent recurrence. This is a crucial part of improving safety in the workplace.

Key Actions

1. **Report All Incidents:** Whether it's a minor accident or a near miss, report it immediately.
2. **Know Your First-Aiders:** Make sure you know who the appointed first-aiders are and how to contact them.
3. **Emergency Services Contact:** Familiarize yourself with the best means to contact emergency services.
4. **Learn Basic First Aid:** Knowing basic first aid procedures can save lives. Consider getting first aid training.
5. **Participate in Accident Investigations:** Be an active participant in accident investigations and learn from them.

Statistics

- According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the construction industry accounts for approximately 27% of fatal injuries to employees and 10% of reported major injuries.
- Falls from height (49%) and incidents of slips, trips or falls (29%) are the most common causes of fatal injury to workers.

The Law

- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974: Employers must ensure the health and safety of all employees and anyone who may be affected by their work.
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999: Employers must assess and control risks to protect their employees.
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR): Employers must report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences.

Understanding and following accident procedures is crucial for workplace safety. Non-compliance can lead to serious injuries or even fatalities, and can result in legal repercussions for both employees and employers.

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1. Toolbox Talks

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