



## Daily Toolbox Talk: Continue Learning (Demonstration Day) May 5, 2022

The construction industry is filled with people of all ages, backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. How do we unite as one connected, supported, and safe industry? Sharing lessons learned on new innovations to a common issue or streamlining a task to make it safer and more efficient will allow us to continually learn and improve our overall safety.

Take time to plan an interactive demonstration aimed at improving the common knowledge of how to perform specific tasks safely. Seek out experienced crew members to help lead these discussions and demonstrations. Invite outside speakers to share insights and presentations and encourage participation from all in attendance. Make it interactive, educational, and fun. Here are just a few examples to help you plan your demonstration day.

### Demo Day Examples:

- Safety Helmet Demonstration: Have you made the switch yet? Many companies are implementing the use of helmets rather than hard hats. Why is it a good idea? Lead a discussion on the history of the hard hat, current head injury statistics, and why much of the industry is moving toward better head protection.
- Workplace Fatigue Awareness, Mental Health, and Nutrition: Let's talk about our health and wellness. Invite outside speakers, nutritionists, wellness coaches, or personal trainers. Focus on the realities of our work which can include long hours, long commutes, shift work, etc. What practical things can we do to improve our mental and physical health? If you offer an Employee Assistance Program, be sure to let your team members know all the benefits offered.
- De-escalation Techniques and Situational Awareness: How can we create a culture of caring? Invite experts in crisis prevention, mental health, and suicide prevention to share practical methods to offer supportive and compassionate responses to someone in need.
- Equipment Inspection: Set up a variety of equipment on your site. Break out into groups and choose key crew members to lead a discussion on daily inspections. What should be inspected? How is an effective inspection conducted? How is it documented? What is the protocol to follow when an issue is discovered? This is a great discussion to hold for operators and non-operators alike, so be sure to cover some of the most critical items.
- Environmental Safety and Protection: What are the most common environmental concerns on your project site? How are they managed? What are the potential impacts if we don't properly control them? Host an interactive discussion on environmental protection and mitigation measures. Cover basic elements of SWPPP, dust, noise, and wildlife requirements. Invite guest speakers.
- Emergency Action Planning: What do we do if? Do your team members know what to do in an emergency? Whether it's a fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, or any other type of emergency, now is a good time to review your plan. Host discussions on potential emergencies that could arise and what protocols to follow. Consider planning a mock drill after your demonstration.
- Line of Fire Awareness: Evaluate past injuries or near misses. Review the most likely line-of-fire injury potential on your site and how you are mitigating it. Host discussions with experienced team members. Encourage your crews to search out other line-of-fire potential and reward them for their discoveries.
- Traffic Safety: Working in the public right-of-way can be extremely dangerous. This is a great time to review the fundamentals of traffic safety. Set up a demonstration of traffic control. Review best practices—lead discussions by experienced crew members or outside presenters.



# CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

Encourage open discussions on the realities of your current work and what improvements can be made to protect crews from traffic hazards.

- **Fall Protection Demonstration:** Falls remain a leading cause of fatalities in construction. Set up a demonstration on PFAS (Personal Fall Arrest System) fundamentals. Lead interactive demonstrations on proper harness fitment, inspection, and use as well as lanyard selection (Edge rated?), limitations, and fall clearance requirements. Review how to select proper anchorage points. You may even perform a controlled drop with a mannequin or invite a local vendor out for a fall protection demonstration.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Construction workers sustain more traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) than employees at any other type of workplace in the US. TBIs represent one-quarter of all construction fatalities, and more than half of fatal work-related traumatic injuries were a result of falls.

Safety helmets dramatically reduce the frequency and severity of TBIs due to their retention systems and ability to protect against lateral impact and penetration.

If your company has already adopted the use of helmets, ask your crews, “Why are you glad to be wearing a safety helmet rather than a traditional hardhat?” If your company is still considering making the change, ask, “What, if anything, are your reservations about safety helmets?” and reach out for more information.

