

WALSH SAFETY HUDDLE #34 – Good Housekeeping

❖ INTRODUCTION

- Advertisement for the company, is the advertisement neat and tidy?
- Identifying a safe job just by looking at it. Dirty + Disorganized usually equals unsafe, poorly managed.

❖ THE TWO FUNDAMENTALS OF HOUSEKEEPING

- First: Keep trash and loose objects picked up and dispose of them
- Second: Pile all materials and park all tools and equipment in places where they belong.
- Simple right? The hard part is that housekeeping is not a part-time job.
 - Once a week sweep just won't cut it, Daily upkeep is mandatory for success
 - All hands = it's everyone's responsibility, even if the mess was made by others.
 - If your crew expends the time to clean up after others, let management figure out the coding of time.

❖ COMMON PROBLEM AREAS/EQUIPMENT

- Welding/Piling
 - Excessive leads left about
 - Acetylene/Oxygen hoses
 - Compressed gas bottles not returned to storage racks when empty or not in use.
- Structural Concrete
 - Disorganized rebar staging
 - Stripping forms-protruding nails + bundling lumber
 - Extension cords off of generators
- Concrete paving
 - Dowels/rebar left on walking surfaces
 - Concrete "booger" piles
 - Stripping headers-nails and loose materials
 - Trash from mobile operating crews
- Laydown areas
 - Limited space/organization
 - Proper stacking of materials
 - Layout of boxes, supplies to allow access to all when needed
 - HazComm-Chemicals in unlabeled containers, greasy-oily rags creating fire hazards, spills or leaks creating slippery surfaces or chemical spills.

❖ STACKING MATERIALS

- Brick, pipe, conduit, tile, dry material bags (grout, sandblasting agents), rebar. All have their own characteristics, but here are some rules that apply to all:
 - First: Consider how the material will be removed from the pile. Leave proper space for employees/equipment to operate around the pile.
 - Second: Never pile materials in a way that may endanger workers or will result in a backbreaking job for the worker who has to break down the pile.
 - Third: Check the conditions of what you're stacking on:
 - Ground conditions can fail especially around excavations
 - Scaffold planks have total load limits
 - Building floors also have encumbrance limits
 - Fourth: Maintain a height that will keep the stack from toppling or result in a hazard
 - Finally: Utilize equipment when necessary to avoid strains while stacking awkward or heavy materials.

❖ CONCLUSION

- Management and Workforce must attack with the same tenacity. The jobsite will reflect upon everyone working there. If management doesn't commit time to a clean site the workers won't maintain it, and if the workers aren't mindful of the hazards presented by poor housekeeping, management will suffer due to the chance of injuries occurring and the loss of production due to slowed crews working around conditions instead of in them.
- Success will be made if the whole team is dedicated to the effort of maintaining the project, and both will reap the rewards.

Good Housekeeping

What proper stacking/storage can do for you....



...and then placement and ground conditions are keys too!



It might not hurt me, but it will be hard to load out or re-use.

THINK TIDY!
GOOD
HOUSEKEEPING
IS ESSENTIAL
FOR SAFETY



Good job everyone!

As easy to pull out, as they are to step on.



Access anyone?



Maybe tap water is better for you!?!

