



Work Area Inspections

FOCUS ON THESE 4

1. **WORK AREA ORGANIZATION** - The way we setup our work area does not often change, even when there are better ways that things could be arranged. Look at how your work area is set up. Are there any overhead hazards? Are there heavy objects that need to be lifted repeatedly? Are important parts or materials getting damaged because of where they are placed? Evaluate how changes or a rearrangement of a work area can make it a safer and more efficient place to work.
2. **TOOL CONDITION** - Hand tools are constantly being used for work tasks, and over time they are bound to wear down. Tools are often used way past their lifecycle. When tools are used despite being broken or not functioning correctly, injuries can happen. Inspect all hand tools for broken handles, chipping, bending, loose fittings, or just improper functionality.
3. **TRIP HAZARDS** - Trips and slips are a common injury in the woods. Debris on the ground or on the floor of the cab, slippery surfaces and uneven ground are just a few common examples. Trip hazards are some of the easiest hazards to eliminate from your work zone, just focus on moving them before you fall.
4. **HAND HAZARDS**- Over 1 million workers are treated in the emergency room for hand injuries each year. Common types of injuries include burns, cuts, crushed-by, and fractures. Dangers that cause these injuries can be found virtually anywhere in your work area. Pinch points, moving parts, unguarded equipment, hot surfaces, dropped objects, etc., are all hazards that should be looked at when addressing hand hazards during a work area inspection.

To sum it up...These 4 focus areas are just a small list of items for review when recognizing and addressing hazards during your inspection. Focus on these 4 today.

When we consider the small hazards that cause the majority of injuries we avoid complacency when it comes to addressing any hazard in your job site.



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Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members. Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan. Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, FRA, FMIC, SafetyontheWeb



