



## TOOLBOX TALK #18

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 18

### FIRST AID

Any time there is an injury on our job site, it should be reported, but small cuts and scratches are common in any construction environment and many do not require professional medical care. We are talking about small abrasions and other minor first aid cases. If you have a puncture wound or other injury that does not fall into a simple first aid category, you should not take it upon yourself to administer treatment.

Understand, too, that even minor injuries should be treated. Proper first aid treatment can prevent superficial wounds from deteriorating into serious medical conditions. Minor cuts should be thoroughly cleansed and bandaged. Our work environment includes dust, metal particles and other foreign objects that can infect even a small wound. Keeping the area clean and bandaged can prevent this from happening.

Objects in the eye should be treated immediate. If an eye wash station is not immediately available, thoroughly flush the affected eye with clean water to ensure the foreign object is removed. If irritation of the eye persists, or you notice sustained reddening, report to your supervisor.

We have first aid kits on all job sites. Do not use towels or rags for bandaging purposes. Use the sterile, non-stick bandaging we provide to cover small wounds. If you notice any swelling, reddening or unusual soreness surrounding your wound, report this right away. These may be signs of infection and immediate treatment is the cure. The first aid kit should also be checked to ensure it contains sufficient supplies of bandage, sterile pads, protective gloves and other often used items. If you notice shortages or missing items, report this so that the kit can be restocked.

Of course, we want to prevent injuries in the first place, but let's make certain we don't allow a small cut to become a medical problem. The proper application of first aid is an effective way to keep the minor scrapes minor.

Facilitator Notes: If you have a designated as first-aid person for certain job site locations, explain this to your crew. Although OSHA does not require a first-aid person on every job site, you may choose to involve this designee in any first aid case. Use your company first aid kit as a visual tool in your talk and explain its contents. Ask your crew if they have suggestions for additional items that might be carried.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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List additional attendees on back of sheet