



## TOOLBOX TALK #42

### Material and Equipment Storage

We deal with safe handling of materials day in and day out, and that may cause us to overlook the importance of safe storage of these same materials. Where we put things is important, for a variety of reasons. We'll talk this morning about a few of these reasons.

We must avoid the unnecessary accumulation of materials on a job site. The presence of unnecessary materials can cause slip and fall hazards, interference with equipment, general obstruction and other danger. We should remove excess materials from the job site as soon as practical and store them only in ways that are safe and do not impede our operations.

The first rule is that stored materials should never create a hazard to themselves. Materials stored in tiers should be secured and limited in height to avoid falling on people or equipment. Stored materials should never impede access to Emergency equipment, fire extinguishers, electrical switch boxes, first aid boxes or exits. Heavy materials should be stored low and close to ground level to reduce the potential for injury in lifting. There should never be any obstructions where mechanical lifting equipment is involved or with passageways where such equipment will move within the job site.

We should have the materials and equipment we need on each job site when it is needed. If you see opportunities to reduce the congestion of these materials within a job site, please speak up. This is a safety issue and a housekeeping issue. On many projects, we are able to access the equipment and materials we need without having it create an obstacle. In the meantime, keep these items stored safely and out of the way when we are not using them.

Facilitator Notes: Review your existing job site and consider ways to maximize safety as related to this topic. Seek suggestions from your crew. Not only might you uncover suggestions related to safety, you may also find more efficient ways to manage the job site from a storage standpoint. Discuss any problem areas that may exist within the job site and ask for suggestions on minimizing exposure to risk from your crew.

**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