



## TOOLBOX TALK #27

### We Really Are A Team!

From time to time during our safety talks, we have used analogies to teams, talked about teamwork and made the point that you should watch out for one another. Today, I want to talk about that, because we are, as individuals, the most effective safety tools on this jobsite.

There are a couple of points that I want to emphasize. The first is that those of you with more experience should never hesitate to share your professional skills – especially in the area of safety – with a less experienced co-worker. If you see someone doing something in an unsafe manner that can easily be corrected, approach that person and show him the proper way. I’m not talking about serious violations or major training, but things that you can correct on the spot. To those of you who are among those who may be approached for this reason, listen to what your co-worker says. If you don’t understand or think the advice is beyond company policy or wrong, come to me and we’ll discuss.

The second important item is that you should report unsafe work practices and conditions. If it involves a co-worker, you are not “ratting” on them. We can’t think that way! People get hurt on construction sites. Injuries typical in our profession range from minor first aid cases, to broken bones, to paralysis to death. We have to make our job safe, and if that means reporting a co-worker, then that’s what it means. When that happens, we will work it out. This is about safety, not personalities and each member of this team is responsible for every other member of this team.

Think about our team in that manner. We build quality projects that we can all be proud of by working together. None of us is individually capable of erecting this structure. If any one of you were not important to our company in completing our mission, you wouldn’t be here. We need every one of you. The same thing applies in achieving our goal of zero injuries. It is important that we watch out for one another. We all have the capability of saving a life.

**Facilitator Notes:** Instruct your crew to look around at one another and think about friendships, families and other important matters that go beyond the job at hand. Encourage them to recognize their own potential to protect one another by being alert, practicing safe work habits and recognizing hazards. Use this opportunity to reinforce safety as a professional skill among your crew members.

**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