

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY INFORMATION

Safety is an attitude. The way to be safe is to think and act safe. Safety at our construction site is important for all of us. We hope that this information will insure that you will be safe and have fun as you volunteer for Houston Habitat for Humanity.

The Safety Training Video is part of the Volunteer Orientation. For groups, we will send the tape to you for viewing (please return after you are through). Please be certain that you have viewed this tape before coming to the job site. Safety awareness is important, and our safety video and this information sheet are not a comprehensive safety course. Rather we designed this program to heighten your awareness of the need to be careful on the job site. There are other sources of good and comprehensive safety material, and we encourage you to seek that information. The public library is an excellent source of more extensive safety information.

Dress with safety in mind. Clothes should fit comfortably but should not be baggy (long sleeves should be buttoned). Steel toe work boots are preferred but sneakers with solid soles are okay (no sandals). Please leave jewelry (necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc.) at home. Purses and wallets should be locked in trunk of vehicle (out of sight, out of mind). Hard-hats are required when overhead work is being done and eye protection is required when operating power tools. You are encouraged to bring work gloves.

- **Before working... Survey!** Before working in any area please survey the space around you. Look around your feet and overhead for obstacles, and organize the workspace within your reach. Be especially careful when carrying long objects so that you do not hit other people. Watch for excavations, openings, edges of slabs, and slippery conditions.
- **Power tools:** When operating power tools know the correct procedures. This will insure your safety. Before operating inspect the cords, outlets, and blade. If the blade (or bit) needs to be replaced disconnect it from the power source. Support the stock properly and never reach under material while it's being cut. Wear eye and ear protection.
- **Maintain Good "Housekeeping":** A clean job site is essential to work site safety. Please keep trash in the dumpster and scrap lumber where it belongs. If nails are protruding from scrap lumber bend them down or extract them. Keep track of your tools. If you see something -- pick it up.
- **Roofs and ladders:** Exercise caution when using ladders. Do not use the top two steps. Use a partner to steady the ladder. Only one person on a ladder at one time. Watch for temporary overhead power lines. When working on the roof move slowly and carefully. Use a toe board when necessary. And be careful with tools and other objects so they don't fall off. Falling is a major cause of injury on the work site.
- **Lifting and carrying:** When lifting, stand close to the load, bend knees, grasp firmly, and then lift by straightening your legs. Keep your body vertical. Get help with heavy or long loads.
- **Fire protection and First Aid:** Habitat's superintendents have fire extinguishers and First Aid kits located on the site. To prevent fires dispose of scrap lumber, debris, paint, and oily rags regularly. ***If there is a fire or medical emergency, notify the Construction Manager immediately, and call 911.***

There is no way this short summary can cover all the safety issues. The Construction Manager will give further construction tips as they apply to particular tasks. Review these notes again before coming to the site. If you are unsure about something - **ASK!** Exercise caution and common sense. We hope you enjoy your experience. Please keep safety in mind and we will all have fun and enjoy the finished product: a new Habitat house for a Houston family! Thank you!