

WORKSITE SAFETY FOR THE ADULT LEADER

Safety on every job site must be the **PRIMARY CONCERN** of the Adult Crew Leader on the site.

Construction jobs are inherently DANGEROUS PLACES. Awareness of and proper adherence to Safety rules GREATLY REDUCES THE DANGER! Our goal is NO ACCIDENTS! Enforcing Safety rules may not always make you the most popular person on site with some of the young people. Expect this and GET OVER IT NOW! Doing everything possible to ensure Safety of all is YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN. Being “cool” should not be, and cannot be your concern. Model proper Safety practices. Here are some of the common concerns:

Eye Protection: Eye protection must be worn at all times! Don’t let the youth talk you out of it because it “isn’t cool”. IT IS VERY COOL WHEN WE SEND THEM BACK TO THEIR FAMILIES IN THE SAME PHYSICAL CONDITION THAT WE GOT THEM! (except tired is ok!) Even something as simple as paint in the eye can cause long-term injuries.

Hearing Protection: It is possible to have a degradation of hearing yet never experience discomfort. Therefore, disposable foam earplugs or over-ear muffs should be used when exposed to loud noises including operating or working near power tools.

Head Protection: Hard hats are required on all demolition jobs, on any job where youth are working below someone on a ladder, on roofing jobs by anyone who is working on the ground, on any job where there is a potential of anything falling on a worker or there is potential for a worker striking their head on an object (something is sticking out at head level). If in doubt, WEAR A HARD HAT! Be especially careful moving step ladders. Check the shelf on top to make sure nothing was left on it. BOTTOM LINE, IF THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR SOMETHING MOVING/FALLING ABOVE YOUR HEAD, YOU SHOULD BE WEARING A HARD HAT.

Foot Protection: WORK BOOTS are required at ALL TIMES on the job sites. No exceptions! Check BEFORE departing for your site in the morning to make sure all crew members have proper footwear. If they do not have the right shoes, they cannot go to the job – it is just that simple! It is each adult’s responsibility to ENFORCE this Safety requirement. Boots must be a minimum 3/4-height.

Fall Protection: Anyone working on a roof must use a fall arrest harness! Instruction on proper use of fall protection devices will be given to all crews who will be required to use it on their site. Ladders used to climb to and from the roof should be steadied (footed) by a crew member on the ground – someone who is wearing a hard hat! If possible, ladders should be tied off at the top.

Heat & Sun: Make sure that all crew members take FREQUENT WATER BREAKS! Make sure they are not waiting until they are thirsty to drink some water. This is especially important if it is hot and humid. Overexposure to the sun is also a major concern, especially on roofing jobs. Make sure crew members apply sunscreen frequently if they are working outside in the sun. Set up your break area in the shade. If no natural shade is present, make some using a tarp. It is important to have a place to rest that is out of the sun! Let Homebase know as soon as you can if you think there is a possibility you might run out of water! We will bring more to you. Each of the project teams will have one young person whose role will include making sure that there is enough water on the jobsite: each Adult Crew Leader must help this young person do their job! DO NOT use the resident’s water!

Worksite Safety for the Adult Crew Leader continued...

- Power Tool Use:** Youth are to have constant ADULT supervision when they are using power tools – especially with any kind of saw! Accidents happen VERY QUICKLY with power saws, and are usually SERIOUS! Make sure crewmembers take their time when using power tools. Pay special attention to the supposed “EXPERTS” on your crew...they are usually the first to make a mistake!
- Respirators:** Must be worn during any demolition work, while installing insulation, sanding and scraping, or in any other situation where anything other than air could be inhaled! (Sweeping and creating dust, etc.) These should be compliant with the N95 standard. If you are unsure of the difference ask one of the tool room volunteers.
- Behavior:** Impress upon your crew the importance of Safety and the FACT that any behavior that diminishes Safety at any time during WorkCamp in any manner WILL NOT BE TOLERATED – this is especially true ON THE WORK SITE. The work site is not a place to allow playing around. If you have any problem with any of your crew understanding or complying with this requirement, call Homebase (phone number is in the front of this binder)! We will see if we can make a point; if we cannot, we will send them home.
- Swimming/Wading:** The area we will be going to is full of beautiful streams, creeks, rivers and ponds! Any of these will be particularly inviting during or after a hot, hard day of work. As much as a cool dip in the water may seem like a good idea, DO NOT LET IT HAPPEN! There are just too many things to control! Besides, a nice cold shower is waiting for everyone back at Homebase!
- Animals:** We are often serving in a very rural area, and there can be a lot of wild animals. It is the season that many animals have young babies... there is a possibility some may happen by your site. Take the time to visually enjoy this part of God’s creation! But, obviously we do not approach any animals at all, especially baby animals – their mothers just will not understand! Also be careful around any domestic animals: dogs, cats, and others... sometimes they do not have all their shots. So if you get bit, even by accident while playing, it will be a big problem.

Adult Crew Leaders: Please remember that you are ultimately responsible for all safety on the jobsite! Remember: if it does not feel right, it probably should not be happening. Please communicate with the Contractor and the teens and ensure that everyone is safe at all times.

WORKSITE SAFETY FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- Listen:** Give your adult leaders a break, and follow ALL INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY, and JOYFULLY! Even if you think they are being WAY over protective! It's their job to keep you safe!
- When instructions are being given, make sure you are paying close attention. Be sure the instructions are clear to you before you attempt the work. Ask questions if you are not sure.
- Pay Attention:** Be aware of what is going on around you. Although the task YOU are actually performing may not be too dangerous, a task that is being performed by another worker may present a hazard if you are not careful. **KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND YOU AT ALL TIMES!**
- Clean up:** Keep the site CLEAN! Don't leave things lying around on the ground, be aware of trip hazards and eliminate them where possible. A CLEAN site is not only a safer site, it is also easier to find things you need and makes it easy to pick up when it is time to go.
- Falling Objects:** Be aware of falling object potential. Check the top step of a ladder BEFORE moving it. A hammer left on top leaves a bump when it hits you on the head. WEAR A HARD HAT IF REQUIRED! **Basically, any time something has the potential of falling onto your head (someone is working above you, you are working with materials that are above you, etc.) you should be WEARING A HARD HAT!**
- Head Protection:** If a hard hat is required on your site, one will be provided for you. Make sure the suspension is adjusted correctly, and it fits comfortably. A hard hat that is not properly adjusted provides little or no protection! If you need help with it, ask the WorkCamp Contractor or your Adult Crew Leader.
- Gloves:** Wear them any time you are handling construction debris, cleaning up trash or brush. Never reach into a brush or trash pile without them! You might get an unpleasant surprise (maybe painful too!). Generally, you DO NOT want to wear gloves while using power tools. If you are not sure, ask your Contractor.
- Drink Water:** DRINK WATER, DRINK WATER, and DRINK WATER. Carry your personal water bottle with you at all times. Drink often! Drink only the water that is brought from Homebase. Do not drink any of the resident's water; it has not been tested for safety.
- Conserve Water:** Do not get in water battles with your drinking water. You will need all of it.
- If You Feel Sick:** Let your Adult Crew Leader know right away. It is probably a good time for a break. Keep a wet bandana around your neck if it is extremely hot. The evaporation will help to keep you cooler. Take a break in the shade if you think you need to. Drink lots of water!
- Eye protection:** Must be worn **at all times**. JUST WEAR THEM! Even if you think you can get away without wearing them, PLEASE wear them anyway. Eyes cannot be replaced and just one flying nail or paint drop in the eye can blind you forever.
- Hearing Protection:** It is possible to have a degradation of hearing yet never experience discomfort. Therefore, disposable foam earplugs or over-ear muffs should be used when exposed to loud noises including operating or working near power tools.
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Worksite Safety for Youth Participants continued...

- Eat Every Meal:** Eat breakfast and lunch even if you would rather not. Your body is not used to this level of exertion and needs the energy to keep it going.
- Sun Protection:** Use your sun screen! Keep applying it, especially if you are sweating a lot. Wear long sleeves and long pants if working on a roof. Light colored and loose fitting clothing is best. Otherwise you are very likely to get a nasty sunburn. Hats and bandanas are also good.
- Foot Protection:** WORK BOOTS at ALL TIMES on the job sites. No exceptions...and work boots are to be a minimum of 3/4-height. Make sure you have them BEFORE you leave Homebase in the morning.
- Insect Protection:** Use bug repellent! There are many ticks in the areas where we will be working. Spray your boots and legs well a couple times per day if you are working outside near long grass. Do a complete tick check when you are in the shower. If you find you have been bitten by a tick, go see the nurse to have it removed.
- Bees and Wasps...carefully check your worksite for nests before you begin working. Wasp spray has been provided to each of the crews. For large nests, contact Homebase and an exterminator will be sent to handle it. DO NOT try to eliminate a large nest on your own.
- Bats:** WorkCamp takes place during the most active time of the year for bats. If you find a bat, or see one in your workspace, don't touch it! Call the Project Office to notify the WorkCamp Team. Simply touching bat saliva and rubbing your eye can put you at risk for Rabies.
- Plant Protection:** Poison Ivy, etc... Know what it looks like and stay away from it. If you are not sure, ask!
- Ask Questions:** ASK, ASK, and ASK some more! If you are unsure of anything at all, do not be afraid to ask questions. We are here to help one another.
- Get Enough Rest:** SLEEP! Go to bed at lights out. Even if you do not feel ready, PLEASE lay down and be quiet and considerate of your roommates who may need more rest than you do. Trying to work when you are tired is not safe. You will need all the sleep you can get to make it through the week.
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