



SITE SAFETY MEETING - TOOL BOX TALK

Construction Boots

There is the saying, "I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet." Proper footwear for the job is essential to protect **your** feet. You only get one pair. The next pair of feet you get will be artificial.

Some think work is the place to finish off their old shoes. Not so; injuries can occur because of paper-thin soles, spliced laces, or improper footwear such as sneakers or sandals.

Here are some general guidelines to help you keep your feet safe while at work:

- Discard shoes that have run-down heels or flapping soles.
- Worn soles will not protect your feet.
- Replace worn laces.
- Wet concrete is mildly caustic; wear overshoes.
- Trench foot is caused by wet boots.
- Asphalt and hot roofing require heavy boots.
- Steel shanks will help prevent punctures caused by nails or other sharp objects.
- Steel toed boots protect your feet from being crushed.



When special protection is required in a particular work area, protect your feet by using the appropriate type of work shoe. Special types of work require special types of boots:

- When working on hot asphalt, wear shoes that have extra thick soles, or use wooden sandals attached to your boots.
- Welders should wear leggings over their boots to protect their feet from hot metal.
- Work in extremely cold environments may require shoes that have rubber soles, with leather uppers and liners. (Although these may not be safety boots, they will protect from frostbite.)

The American National Standards Institute provides impact and compressive test guidelines for protective footwear. ANSI also provides standards for four special types of boots (refer to ANSI Z41). They are: metatarsal (steel toe), conductive, sole puncture and static dissipative.

Each boot has a special application, but each must also meet the impact and compressive test guidelines. If you are unsure of the best boot for your work, ask your foreman or superintendent.

Remember--you only get one pair of feet! Protect them!

Questions to start discussion:

1. What types of shoes should not be worn on the job?
2. What should you do with old or worn shoes?
3. Why would sneakers or sandals be inappropriate to wear on the jobsite?
4. What types of boots should be worn when working in wet concrete? In hot asphalt?
5. What types of boots should be worn when working in cold weather?

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Meeting Notes:

Employee Comments / Concerns: _____

Other Safety issues to be addressed on the job: _____

Training Record: Date: _____ Jobsite: _____ By: _____ Title: _____

Employee Name	Emp #	Signature	Employee Name	Emp #	Signature
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Tool Box Talks are employee safety meetings designed to serve as 15 minute on-site training sessions focused on key topics relative to your work.

Site superintendents or foremen are responsible for holding meetings each week usually during a morning break. This important segment of your general safety program encourages open discussion on the topic of the week and allows employees to share their experiences about accidents and safe or unsafe work practices. Recordkeeping is mandatory and all involved must sign off on each session.

Topics for your company could include: electrical safety, excavation and trenching safety, fall protection, scaffold safety, stairway and ladder safety, hazard communication, fire safety, personal protective equipment, tool safety, materials handling, etc.

Sample Tool Box Talks are provided compliments of the Safety Committee of the Hartford County Homebuilders Association. For more information on Tool Box Talks contact The HBA office 860 563-4212. *Tool Box Safety Talks* can be purchased from the National Association of Homebuilders 1-800 368-5242, www.nahb.com or may be available through your business insurance provider.

BUILD SAFELY – THINK SAFETY