

## Toolbox Talk: Who is responsible for safety?

### Introduction/Overview:

Safety first! We've all heard this statement. Most of us have probably said it, and sometimes it's even stated in jest. But when safety isn't first, it often leads to dire consequences. So, who is responsible for safety? Is it the Safety Manager, your supervisor, or someone else? If you want to know who is responsible for safety, look in the mirror. That's right: you are. Each of us has that responsibility.

### Statistics:

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration law, employers have the responsibility to provide a safe workplace by providing a workplace free from serious recognized hazards and by complying with standards, rules, and regulations. However, it is your responsibility to comply with your employer's safety policies and procedures. According to an OSHA, more than [5,250](#) workers lost their lives in 2018, and more than [four million](#) are seriously injured each year in workplace accidents. Tens of thousands more die or are incapacitated because of occupational illnesses, including many types of cancer and lung disease.

### Talking Points:

- Follow your organization's policies and procedures.
  - Remove and tag unsafe equipment.
  - Correct or report safety violations.
  - Only use equipment that you are trained on.
  - Do not allow others to operate machinery they are not authorized to use.
  - Speak up! If an operation looks hazardous, say something either to the individuals involved or their supervisor.
  - Use the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
  - Ensure PPE fits and is worn correctly.
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Developed by:

## **Final Thoughts:**

The whole purpose of safety procedures, programs, and policies is to have you go home at the end of the day in the same condition as you came to work. All the rules in the world won't protect you if you don't follow them. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

**NOTE:** Always promote discussion with the attendees. If a question comes up that no one in attendance can answer, please contact OWC or the Loss Control Innovations consultants for assistance.

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## **References:**

[United States Department of Labor OSHA Worker Rights and Protections/Employer Responsibilities](#)

[United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration Commonly Used Statistics](#)

[National Safety Council Workplace Injuries By the Numbers](#)