



Unsafe Acts and Unsafe Conditions

Safety Challenges

The causes of accidents are commonly classified into two categories:

- Unsafe acts
- Unsafe conditions

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Note: The information in this publication is time sensitive. Do not rely upon this document if its publication date is more than three years old. Please check the Employer Guide "Safety" section of our web site at www.saif.com/employer for a more recent, printable copy. You'll also find a variety of other valuable safety information designed to help your business prevent injuries and control costs.

Unsafe Acts

Unsafe acts are activities and/or job performance which employees are involved in and may include:

- Unauthorized use or operation of equipment.
- Failure to secure or tie down, or stacking/loading in an unbalanced manner against unexpected movement.
- Operating or working at an unsafe speed. This includes running and jumping or taking shortcuts.
- Failure to warn or signal when moving carts or other equipment around corners and in blind spots to alert others to your location.
- Removing or making safety devices inoperative (For example taking guards off of equipment).
- Using defective tools or equipment.
- Using tools or equipment in an unsafe manner.
- Standing in an unsafe place or assuming an unsafe posture. Always use proper body mechanics and appropriate ladders or step stools.
- Servicing moving or working equipment.
- Riding hazardous moving equipment.
- Engaging in horseplay, which is distracting—startling and kidding.
- Failure to wear personal protective equipment.

Unsafe Conditions

Unsafe conditions involve the general work environment, equipment, weather as well as activities which employees are involved in and may include:

- Lack of adequate guards or safety devices.
- Lack of adequate warning systems (e.g. fire alarms, etc.)
- Fire and explosion hazards.
- Unexpected movement hazards.
- Poor housekeeping, especially slippery surfaces.
- Protruding object hazards.
- Close clearance and congestion hazards (e.g. blind corners).
- Hazardous atmospheric conditions (e.g. ice, snow, rain, heat, sun).
- Hazardous arrangement, placement, storage.
- Hazardous defects in tools, equipment, etc.
- Inadequate illumination, intense noise.
- Hazardous personal attire.

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