



Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

You may have to depend on supervisors and safety engineers to provide you with safe, well-maintained and appropriate equipment for your job. But it's important to remember that as a user of equipment, you have a very active role in your safety and the safety of those who work with you.

For instance, management ensures that materials you use are clearly labeled for hazards and proper use. But it's up to you to read the label, use the material according to the guidelines and ask questions when you're not sure about what you've read or must do. You must also be alert to what's going on around you. Are others following safety procedures? It's up to you to practice safety procedures for using your tools and machinery. If you injure yourself because you didn't use guards properly or didn't protect your face, hands and eyes, or injure someone else because you were careless, who can you blame for the accident? The responsibility is yours.

What if oil is spilled on the floor? Someone could slip and fall. You may think that it's not

your job to clean it up; after all, your job is construction, not maintenance. You know it's there, so you're careful to walk around it. But what about those you work with every day? Someone could be injured unless you make things happen. It may not be your job to clean up the spill yourself, but you can make sure the cleanup gets done. Not only do you protect those you work with, you also make a big impression on your boss. And that can't hurt.

It's a good feeling to take charge of your own safety. And others appreciate knowing they can depend on you.

It's Up to You

- ✓ Read the on-site OSHA poster.
- ✓ Comply with all applicable OSHA standards.
- ✓ Follow all employer safety and health rules and regulations.
- ✓ Wear or use the right protective equipment.
- ✓ Report hazardous conditions.
- ✓ Report any job-related injury or illness to your employer and seek treatment promptly.

