

Common Sense Safety

Objective: to introduce the concept of common sense safety culture.

Lesson: *In many instances, working safely is simply common sense. By paying attention to your surroundings and using common sense precautions you demonstrate the fundamentals of safety and accident prevention.*

You use plenty of common sense to keep you safe in your day-to-day activities. You look both ways before crossing a busy street. You protect your hands before removing a hot dish from the oven. You have practiced these common sense habits so often that they are now automatic.

On the job it is just as, if not more, important to use common sense to keep you safe at work. Accidents often happen when people are rushed and not focusing on the task at hand. A single lapse of inattention can result in a serious, life-altering injury. Safety starts with common sense and being attentive to your surroundings.

- You wouldn't oil or adjust unguarded moving machinery
- You wouldn't chip or grind without safety glasses
- You wouldn't look for a gas leak with a lighted match

Can you come up with five more common sense safety rules for the landscape site?

Common sense also means using personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever necessary.

Head protection: Staff should wear head protection at all times.

Hearing protection: Wear ear protection when noise levels are over 85 db. Make sure hands are clean before touching insert-type ear protection. Muff or cap-type protection covers the entire ear.

Eye protection: includes glasses and sunglasses with impact-resistant lenses and flexible or cushion-fitting ventilated plastic goggles. Face shields protect against splashes and small flying particles, but not against heavy impact. To improve impact resistance, wear safety glasses or goggles under the face shield.

Foot protection: safety boots should be worn on the job at all times.

Hand protection: leather work gloves provide good gripping power and protects hands.

Sunscreen: Applying waterproof sunscreen several times a day should be considered part of your personal protective equipment during the spring and summer months.

• *Common sense safety also means watching out for the safety of your fellow workers. Speak up if they are putting themselves, or someone else, at risk.*

• *Accidents often happen when people are rushed and not focusing on the task at hand.*

