



Who is Responsible for Safety?

Every person is the architect of his or her own fortune, and that fortune, good or bad, depends on the individual's acceptance of personal responsibility.

At a young age, we are taught to assume responsibilities. ("Look before you cross the street ... playing with matches is dangerous ... be home before dark ...") Even today, as adults, we still learn and decide whether to accept certain obligations. Young or old, we make individual choices.

When responsibilities are shunned or rejected, someone must cope with the results. Police officers, judges, juvenile officers, and social workers respond to most of these rejections in our society. In Construction safety, doctors, nurses, family members, and unfortunately even funeral directors deal with the consequences of rejected responsibilities.

There are laws, both federal and state, site specific safety requirements, along with the company's safety policies, all designed to spell out responsibilities for safety in the work place. However, these are simply words on paper. Words alone cannot keep you safe. The actual performance of these obligations still belongs to you.

By accepting and practicing your own safety responsibility, you ensure your future both at home and on the job. You must do the same for your fellow worker as well, because socially and morally you are responsible for preventing accidents to others as well.

If you see an unsafe act, do something about it – point it out so others are aware and can avoid future mistakes.

- Point out to other employees when safety isn't being practiced. After all, it's their responsibility to prevent an accident to you as well.
- Be willing to serve on a safety committee. Be more than just a member; be active and creative.
- Use good work habits – don't be impulsive and remember that hurrying can hurt. In almost every case – **Slower is Faster!**

Develop the attitude that "if I do something wrong, I'm taking the chance of getting hurt." Remember, the more chances you take, the less chances you get. Take the time to do the task the right way. Step up your own game and help new or unsafe employees learn that safety is the rule, not the exception. Teach them proper safety responsibility before you turn them loose to perform a task.

Who is in charge of Safety on this project? You are!