



STOP WORK AUTHORITY

Talking Points:

Stop Work Authority gives every worker the right and responsibility to stop a task when they believe it's unsafe. OSHA gives workers the right, which means if a worker uses it there will be no retaliation, no blame, and no pressure from the employee's employer.

Rules for Stop Work Authority

1. If something looks or feels unsafe, call a stop. You do not need to know the OSHA regulation or workplace rule to call a stop. A gut feeling is enough to stop work.
2. State the hazard. Calmly and with clear language explain the hazard.
3. Secure the area so no one else is exposed to the hazard.
4. Investigate and mitigate the hazard. The company (supervisor, foreman, safety, etc.) will review the concern, agree to controls to lower or eliminate the hazard.
5. Restart work.

Questions to Ask Yourself Before Stopping Work.

- Do you see a hazard that could cause an injury, damage, or fatality?
- Is the condition unsafe right now or about to become unsafe?
- Have controls been skipped or are they missing?
- Is your gut telling you something is wrong?
- Are you prepared to clearly explain the hazard to your supervisor?

What Undermines Stop Work Authority?

- An employee using it to get out of work they do not like or feel like doing.
- Hesitating to use stop work because you do not want to "let the company/crew down".
- Calling a stop but not explaining the hazard.
- Shaming a worker who stopped work.
- Hesitating because you do not want to be "wrong". You cannot be wrong. If you think it is a hazard, stop work.

Use Stop Work Authority appropriately because it can save a life.

Team Discussion to Review:

Supervisor/Forman, etc...

Think of a hazardous task at your workplace. If an important safety control were removed, would the task become unsafe?

Examples include:

- Working along the edge of a roof and removing fall protection.
- Working on a table saw and removing the guard.

Ask the team, how many of you think we could utilize the Stop Work Authority in this instance?

Go through the rules of Stop Work Authority using your example and have your team explain the hazard and discuss controls.

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