

WAREHOUSE SAFETY



Talking Points:

Warehouses are dynamic environments that pose various hazards to workers, including moving equipment, stored materials, and workplace layout challenges. The primary goal of this toolbox talk is to raise awareness of common warehouse hazards and promote proactive safety measures.

Key Hazard Areas

Slips, Trips, and Falls

- **Hazards:** Wet or uneven floors, cluttered walkways, poorly lit areas, loose cords or packaging materials.
- **Preventive Measures:** Keep floors clean and dry, mark uneven surfaces, maintain clear aisles, use anti-slip footwear.

Forklifts and Moving Equipment

- **Hazards:** Collisions, incorrect stacking, operator error, blind spots.
- **Preventive Measures:** Proper training, speed limits, use of horns and signals, clearly marked traffic lanes.

Manual Handling and Ergonomics

- **Hazards:** Lifting heavy loads, awkward postures, repetitive strain.
- **Preventive Measures:** Use mechanical aids, ask for assistance, follow proper lifting techniques, rotate tasks.

Storage and Shelving Hazards

- **Hazards:** Overloaded shelves, unstable stacks, poorly secured pallets.
- **Preventive Measures:** Follow load capacities, secure pallets, inspect shelving regularly.

Chemicals and Other Hazardous Materials

- **Hazards:** Exposure to flammable liquids, corrosive substances, or cleaning agents.
- **Preventive Measures:** Proper labeling, adequate ventilation, PPE, spill containment procedures.

Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness

- **Hazards:** Blocked fire exits, malfunctioning fire extinguishers, lack of training.
- **Preventive Measures:** Regular fire drills, clear exit routes, easy access to extinguishers, fire safety training.

Awareness and proactive management of hazards reduce the risk of injury in the warehouse. Understand your hazards and risk while completing your job. Report hazards and incidents immediately, work in a safe manner, and participate actively in maintaining a safe work environment.

Questions to Review Knowledge:

Can you identify a hazard you have encountered in the warehouse? _____

Which hazard do you think is the most dangerous in the warehouse? _____

How can vehicle operators and pedestrians safely share warehouse space? _____

What areas in our warehouse are most prone to slips or trips? _____

In a fire emergency, what would you do? _____

What steps should be taken if a storage rack appears unstable? _____

For more safety tips and courses, visit ndsc.org

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