



Army *Safety* Gram

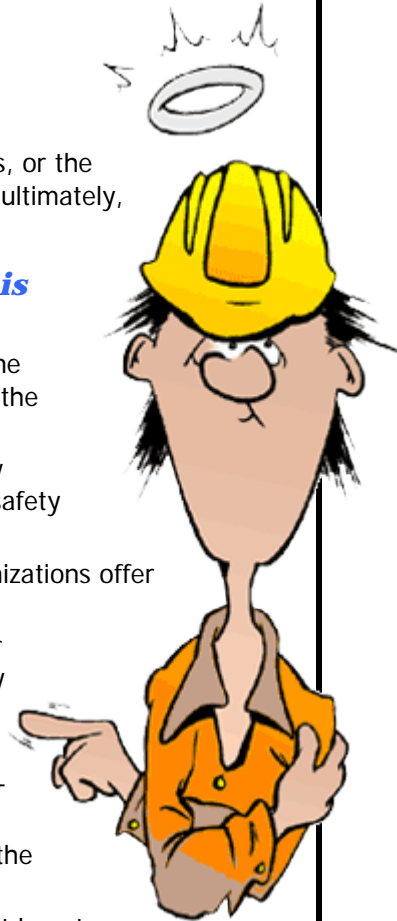


It's Up to You...

Who is responsible for your safety on the job? Is it the government, the company, your boss, or the other members of the crew? Actually, all of them have a responsibility for your safety. But ultimately, the challenge is yours.

Taking responsibility for your own safety is a full-time job. This is how to do it:

- ◆ Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Your work environment can change from one moment to the next with the approach of a vehicle, something falling from overhead or the presence of an intruder. Stay alert.
- ◆ Upgrade your workplace safety training on a regular basis. Take advantage of company training sessions. Review the operator's manual for equipment you use, and company safety documents such as the emergency plan.
- ◆ Keep up your first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills. Community organizations offer sessions at off-work hours.
- ◆ Make a commitment to keep learning. Take every opportunity to learn more about your particular trade. Make a continuous effort to keep up with technology. Learn the safety requirements of your job and best how to implement them. Become proficient at finding information. You don't have to know everything - just where to find it.
- ◆ Talk about safety with your team members. In the break room, at meetings and in one-on-one conversations, put the focus on safety.
- ◆ Perform your own workplace inspections. Maybe other inspectors will have overlooked the faded sign marking the eyewash station or the fire door that won't stay closed.
- ◆ Look for solutions to safety problems. When you find something wrong, try to figure out how to make it right. If a machine guard is inadequate, perhaps you can go to your supervisor with a practical plan for beefing it up.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to point out unsafe practices by your fellow workers, using common sense and courtesy, of course. And encourage them to do the same for you. When you make a mistake, it is better to be embarrassed than electrocuted.
- ◆ Don't let someone else, even your supervisor, make you do something you believe to be unsafe. If somebody tells you its okay to enter a confined space unprotected, they are wrong. It's just possible your boss could use some more safety training too.
- ◆ If you work alone implement a check-in system (via phone or radio) with your supervisor on a regular basis (every hour). Set up a tracking system in case you don't answer the calls.



You can do a lot to keep your fellow workers safe, and they can do a lot for you. But in the end, you are responsible for your own safety.

