



Safety Talk: Enhancing Situational Awareness with the 20-20-20 Rule



PRESENTED BY:

MEETING START TIME:

DATE OF MEETING:

MEETING END TIME:

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING WITH A SAFETY TALK QUESTION:

Was there a situation in the last shift that could have been avoided had the 20-20-20 rule been used?

Background/Importance

Situational awareness is a vital skill in the construction industry, directly impacting safety, efficiency and project success. Construction sites are dynamic environments where conditions can change rapidly. While daily plans are communicated at the start of the day, they often don't account for evolving site conditions. This is where situational awareness can become essential.

The **20-20-20 Rule** is a simple yet powerful method to enhance situational awareness:

- **Every 20 minutes**, pause your work.
- **For 20 seconds**, focus on your surroundings.
- **Look 20 feet** around you to identify any hazards or changes.

This practice helps workers stay alert, anticipate risks and make safer decisions throughout the day.

Hazards and Common Issues

- **Overlooked Hazards:** Workers may miss new or evolving dangers such as overhead work, unstable materials or environmental changes.
- **Poor Communication:** Lack of coordination between trades can lead to conflicting activities and unsafe conditions.
- **Environmental Factors:** Weather changes, unstable soil or unexpected equipment movement can introduce new risks.
- **Hot Work Hazards:** Activities like grinding or welding can create fire risks, especially near flammable materials.
- **Complacency:** Routine tasks can lead to a false sense of security, reducing vigilance.

Safety Controls

- **Implement the 20-20-20 Rule:**
 - Set reminders to pause every 20 minutes.
 - Take 20 seconds to scan your environment.
 - Focus on a 20-foot radius to spot hazards.
- **Stay Aware of Surroundings:**
 - Note the presence of other workers, equipment and materials.
 - Be alert to changes in the workspace and anticipate what might happen next.
- **Coordinate with Team Members:**
 - Hold brief meetings to align on work sequences and avoid conflicts.
 - Communicate any observed hazards or changes immediately.
- **Proactive Risk Management:**
 - Use the 20-20-20 rule to identify controllable risks.
 - Encourage supervisors and trade leads to integrate this practice into daily routines.
- **Foster a Culture of Awareness:**
 - Promote teamwork and shared responsibility for safety.
 - Reinforce the importance of regular environmental scanning.

Worker Comments / Feedback:

To be signed by all employees, contract workers, clients and others who participated in the safety talk prior to commencing work.

Signatures:

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