

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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No. 31

Week of 8/1/2022

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

THE GENERAL DUTY CLAUSE

Have you ever heard of the General Duty Clause? For the next few minutes we'll discuss the General Duty Clause and how it affects your safety.

The General Duty Clause is part of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 — the legislation which resulted in the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. In some respects, the General Duty Clause is a safety summary. Here's what it says:

Section 5(a). Each employer...

- 1) has a duty to provide his or her employees with work and a workplace which is free from recognized hazards that do or could cause serious harm, so as to provide safe and healthful working conditions; and,
- 2) must comply with the occupational safety and health standards, rules, regulations, and orders promulgated under this act.

Section 5(b). Each employee has a duty to comply with the occupational safety and health standards, rules, regulations, and orders promulgated under this act.

Now that you've heard what the General Duty Clause says, think about what it means. The first part (Section 5(a)) is for employers. It means, among other things, that equipment like hard hats and respirators must be provided; employees have to be trained, and that training has to be documented; equipment has to be safe, working properly, and inspected regularly; and the safety rules have to be enforced. The second part (Section 5(b)) is for employees. It means that you have to wear and maintain your hard hat and respirator; you have to pay attention and learn during safety meetings and training sessions; you have to use equipment and tools properly and safely; and you have to follow the safety rules, even when no one is watching.

The bottom line is that safety is the responsibility of **both** employers and employees. Accidents and injuries can be prevented when we **all** accept and fulfill these safety responsibilities. The General Duty Clause formally states our duty to ourselves and to each other to keep this job safe.

Make sure you know the role you play in safety on your jobsite.

SAFETY REMINDER

**If you don't know, or it appears that no one
is responsible, take action!**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.