

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

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Week of 09/27/2021

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

LASER SAFETY

Today's safety meeting addresses laser safety. Lasers are becoming increasingly common on construction sites. They can be used for surveying, for controlling excavating equipment, even for setting the level of a suspended ceiling in residential construction. These lasers won't slice you in two if you walk through the beam, but they can severely damage your eyes and cause **permanent blindness** — this is the real danger! OSHA has specific regulations regarding the use of lasers on construction sites.

To start, OSHA's regulations state that only trained and qualified employees are allowed to install, adjust, or operate laser equipment. Furthermore, those employees must have proof of that qualification with them whenever they are working with lasers.

Remember to take appropriate precautions when you set up or operate lasers. All areas where lasers are being used must be marked with standard laser warning signs or placards. When aligning or adjusting lasers, avoid aiming them into occupied, or potentially occupied areas; that invisible beam of light can cause eye damage even at long distances, and it could be reflected off of a window or a piece of metal. Binoculars and aiming telescopes should not be used to view the direct beam. Whenever possible, set up the equipment so that the beam is above the heads of other employees. Any time the laser is not actually in use, either it should be turned off, or a beam shutter or cap should be used. If the laser is left unattended for a substantial period of time, for instance during lunch or a shift change, the laser must be turned off.

Laser safety isn't just for the people who set them up. Everyone who works near lasers must take precautions to prevent eye injuries. First of all, never look or stare directly into the beam. Second, make sure that you have eye protection that is designed to protect you from laser radiation — sunglasses **are not sufficient**. The goggles you use must match both the wavelength of the light, and the intensity (sometimes referred to as the energy density or the power) of the beam. Don't guess or assume, make sure that you have the correct goggles. The selection criteria for goggles can be found in Table E-3 of 29 CFR 1926.102. The entire standard covering laser safety can be found in 29 CFR 1926.54.

**Be sure to use the appropriate PPE
any time you work with tools,
including the ones that seem harmless.**

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____