

June 2022

Dear RETRO Members,

June is [National Safety Month](#), as declared by the National Safety Council. In this Safety Packet for June, we offer a few focus topics to strengthen your safety culture. In addition to these, always remember to:

- Involve everyone in your organization in risk reduction efforts through hazard identification and reporting
- Spot hazards early through evaluating risk and removing or controlling hazards before they can do harm

And remember, always be on the lookout for hazards. If hazards go unnoticed, they can lead to potentially serious injuries.

Safety Meetings

Why are safety meetings important? First and foremost, they are [required](#). Regular safety meetings also demonstrate that management is serious about safety and not just giving it lip service. These meetings also get employees involved in the safety process by increasing the number of eyes and brains engaged in safety. Employees will develop a sense of "ownership" in the safety efforts.



Invest 15 minutes and discuss the proper use of tools, the right way to use a ladder, or operate any piece of equipment that your company uses. Remember to log the topic and attendees in your safety binder, so if L&I ever audits you, you'll be able to show proof of actively promoting safety in the workplace.

Another great tool is [RS SafetyTV](#), which contains a variety of video topics to assist you with your safety meeting. You can also go to the [RS Safety Library](#) for a selection of various topics and presentation information.

Lack of documented safety meetings is the number four item cited by L&I for 2021.

Slips Trips Falls

It has happened to all of us.

Momentary lapses in concentration or distractions that result in a slip, trip, or fall. It might be slipping on a wet floor, tripping over an uneven surface, or



falling from a ladder. Most slip, trip, and fall incidents are easily preventable with general precautions and safety measures. Falls can cause severe injuries and even death.

Slip - A slip occurs when there is too little traction or friction between the shoe and the walking surface and can cause us to become off balance.

Trip - A trip occurs when a person contacts an object in their way or drops to a lower level unexpectedly, causing them to become off-balance.

Fall - A fall occurs when you are too far off balance. There are two types of falls:

- **Same Level** – A fall to the surface on which we are walking. Same level falls are more common and are usually caused by slips and trips.
- **From an Elevation** - Falls from an elevation are more severe and involve ladders, stairs, platforms, and loading docks. Even falling from a relatively short distance can cause severe damage to your body.

Housekeeping is the first and the most fundamental level of preventing falls due to slips and trips. Without good housekeeping practices, any preventive measures such as installing sophisticated flooring, wearing specialty footwear, or training techniques on foot placement will never be fully effective. Other items that will help in preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls:

- **Don't be distracted and focus on the task until completed**
- Don't be in a hurry
- Wear proper shoes for the work conditions
- Get better lighting where needed
- Balance the load that you are carrying something

For an easy safety meeting, **SAFEME** has a module on [Slip Trips and Falls](#)
[RS SafetyTV](#) has some videos on this topic to help with your safety meetings.



Bench Grinders

L&I inspections always seem to migrate towards the bench grinder. They go over it with a fine-toothed comb! Is the work rest to wheel clearance at 1/8 inch or less? Is the wheel edge trued and squared (dressed)? Are the guards in place? Is the spindle speed appropriate to the wheel speed? I would also suggest that PPE be on a hook close to the grinder. [Click here for the full L&I rule.](#)

There is a video on [RS SafetyTV](#) on grinder wheel maintenance and safety that would be a great way to start a safety meeting.

Thinking safety for you,

Rick Means

Director of Safety and Education
rmeans@waretailservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 118

Chris Silver

Member Services & Data Coordinator
csilver@waretailservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 122