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## **SMOHIT Safety Sense**Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

## **Equipment Maintenance**

- Keeping equipment operating correctly and safely is crucial in the construction industry. Failing to maintain equipment properly can cause unnecessary accidents, injuries and loss of money.
- While it is the workers responsibility to use equipment safely and properly, every contractor and/or company should have a maintenance plan to ensure safe and productive work operations.
- Maintenance planning is the responsibility of top management. It may
  be best to design and implement an organizational chart that assigns
  maintenance responsibilities down through the ranks, from the
  management, through the supervisor, to the employees.
- The jobsite or work area may also have a central location where all
  maintenance procedures can be performed. The maintenance location
  may be regional location, where equipment and machinery are taken,
  or it may be located on the jobsite.
- When planning and building a maintenance shop, whether it is a temporary or permanent one, safety is a primary concern.
   Requirements for maintenance shop safety may differ from state to state, but safety items to consider typically include traffic, material handling, fire prevention, fire protection, proper ventilation, and proper personal protective equipment.
- If you are aware of equipment in need of maintenance, notify your supervisor. Some tasks can be handled simply such as adding water to the batteries of a scissor lift. Other problems, such as rebuilding a press brake, will need more qualified help.

## **Instructor Tips**

- Emphasize that defective machinery and equipment should be taken out of service immediately and reported to the maintenance shop.
- Point out the location of the maintenance shop, whether it be regional or on the jobsite.

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OSHA Regulations: 1926.431