

Job site: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foreman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 G.C. \_\_\_\_\_

**SMOHIT Safety Sense**

**Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry**

**Loading Dock Safety**

- Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common types of loading dock accidents. With so much activity, materials, and equipment around, employees are at risk of injury unless precautions are taken to manage the area and to promote safety.
- Other loading dock injuries occur when employees are hit by powered industrial vehicles operating in the area or because trucks and trailers are not properly secured and shut down.
- The following are rules to prevent accidents and injuries on a loading dock:
  - Throw away trash and clean up spills, leaks, and wet areas immediately.
  - Keep containers, packaging, and tools out of the way and keep pallets neatly stacked.
  - Truck drivers should turn off engines to prevent carbon monoxide release.
  - Forklift operators (not truck drivers) should check to see that truck wheels are chocked (they're the ones who could be injured).
  - Workers should not stand under the forks of a power vehicle, even if the forks are empty.
  - When a forklift horn sounds, workers should get out of the way.
  - Keep forklift forks flat on the floor when not in use to remove a major source of tripping in dock areas.
  - Dockworkers and others should be certain that they can see the driver in their mirrors. If a worker can't see the driver in his or her mirrors, he or she can't see the worker.
  - Never run behind a moving truck, and don't get into tight spaces behind a moving truck.

**Instructor Tips**

- **Ask workers why wearing jewelry on the job can be a hazard (jewelry can get caught in equipment, machinery, or materials and cause a serious injury.)**
- **Remind workers that horseplay and other unsafe behavior, such as jumping on or off the loading dock, is discouraged.**

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Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.178