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Workplace Safety

This activity was created to be used primarily with:

22. Workplace Safety

Secondary skills include:

2. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
3. Initiative and Self-Direction
4. Integrity
5. Work Ethic
11. Big-Picture Thinking
12. Career and Life Management
13. Continuous Learning and Adaptability
14. Efficiency and Productivity
15. Information Literacy
18. Job-Specific Tools and Technologies
20. Professionalism
21. Reading and Writing

1. Teacher will define the Workplace Safety skill as:

- adhering to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and instructor and manufacturer guidelines
 - interpreting safety data sheets (SDS): includes information such as the properties of each chemical; the physical, health, and environmental health hazards; protective measures; and safety precautions for handling, storing, and transporting the chemical. It provides guidance for each specific chemical on things such as: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn when using; first aid procedures should a human accident occur; and spill clean-up procedures. These are required by industries that use chemicals in their processes.
 - identifying and using personal protective equipment (PPE): required clothing, helmets, gloves, face shields, goggles, facemasks and/or respirators or other equipment designed to protect the wearer from injury or the spread of infection or illness.
 - maintaining universal precautions (i.e., to protect against bloodborne pathogens): an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens.



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- identifying risks and hazards in the workplace: falls and falling objects, chemical exposure, fire hazards, electrical hazards, repetitive motion injury, stressful/strenuous situations, and impaired, fatigued, or violent personnel.
- following emergency protocols (e.g., evacuation routes): in case of natural emergencies or workplace accidents or fires, and active shooters.

2. Teacher will present various strategies students could use to improve their personal safety in the workplace based on the program you teach (go over this with students):

Discussion: Ask students to list and discuss ways in which they can take responsibility for workplace safety

Note: In addition to the safety precautions and components listed in the skill definition, have students focus on the **personal responsibility** they need to take rather than relying on the employer or government responsibility to police and enforce workplace safety.

- Personal responsibility in workplace safety topics might include:
- How to address safety concerns, when it might be time to elevate the concern to management or decide to handle with initiative
- The integrity and honesty issue that arises if the individual should cause a safety issue
- Drug and alcohol use, even away from the job
- Fatigue, poor physical condition, poor mental state, interpersonal conflict
- The effects of job stress and PTSD.

3. Ask students to answer the following question: What should you do if there is a dangerous situation at work?

Additional resources:

OSHA Worker Rights and Protections: <https://www.osha.gov/workers/>

How to Read a Safety Data Sheet (SDS): <https://hsi.com/resources/how-to-read-a-safety-data-sheet-sds>

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder form the American Psychiatric Association Center for Workplace Mental Health: <https://www.workplacementalhealth.org/mental-health-topics/posttraumatic-stress-disorder>