**TOOLBOX TALK SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

****

**What is situational awareness?**

Situational awareness is being aware of what is happening around you in terms of where you are, where you are supposed to be, and whether anyone or anything around you is a threat to your health and safety.

**Why should situational awareness be important to me?**

Situational awareness should be important to everyone. It is important that everyone is aware of their surroundings and the potential hazards they face.

It is important that you know how many problems you could potentially face and how serious they are. The temporary loss or lack of situational awareness is a casual factor in many construction accidents.

Often there is so much "going on" in your working environment, or you become so absorbed in your own thoughts, that you fail to spot those things that could pose a serious threat to your health and safety.

**How can I improve my situational awareness?**

Get in the habit of regularly pausing to make a quick mental assessment of your working environment. When doing so, consider the following questions:

Is there anything around you that poses a threat to your health and safety, and if so, to what extent?

Is the threat big enough that you should stop working?

Is there anything you can do to safely reduce that threat in order to carry on working safely?

If you see something unsafe or spot a hazard, don't walk by. Take responsibility to deal with it.

**What is the SLAM technique?**

**S – STOP**

Engage your mind before your hands. Look at the task at hand.

**L – LOOK**

Look at your workplace and find the hazards to you and your colleagues. Report any hazards immediately to your supervisor.

**A – ASSESS**

Assess the effects that the hazards have on you, the people you work with, equipment, procedures, pressures, and the environment. Ask yourself if you have the knowledge, training, and tools to do the task safely. Do this with your supervisor.

**M – MANAGE**

If you feel unsafe, stop working. Tell your supervisor and workmates. Tell your supervisor what actions you think are necessary to make the situation better.