

Jason Mechanical Corp

Tool Box Safety Talk

Why Have Safety Rules?

It would be a little confusing, to say the least, if every other day traffic rules changed. Some days you'd stop on red, on others you'd go on red. Some days you'd stop on green, on others you'd go on green. Possibly on Sundays you'd go on yellow and stop on both green and red. What a disaster that would be -- total chaos!

We all hate rules, we all want to be free to "do our own thing", we all know what is best. But after a few days of the above traffic control scenario, we'd all be longing for rules and praying for some sort of order.

Some things just have to be regulated and codified. This is a safety meeting so it's a good bet that the suggestion will be made that safety must be regulated and codified and that's right!

We all must be "reading off the same page" when it comes to safety. You can't be required to use fall protection only when on a walking/working surface 6 feet or more above a lower level and the next guy be required to use it 5 feet or more above a lower level.

What about hard hats? One fellow might need to wear a hard hat if there were a possibility of being hit by a meteor shower while another might need to wear a hard hat to protect him from impact of sun rays. No logic! No sense!

How about a goofy respiratory protection rule that simply said, "If you're having trouble gasping for air, put on an air supplying respirator."? All silliness.

Safety rules are developed after taking tons of real workplace data and correlating accidents with types of behaviors. Industry standards and procedures, administrative and engineering controls, as well as specific items of protective equipment are developed by professional safety engineers and scientists and codified into standards that apply equally to all in similar circumstances.

Whether you are working on a job in Ohio or in Alabama, the same basic safety rules apply in the same basic circumstances.

You have to admit that sometimes rules and regulations are truly necessary particularly when it comes to safety. Many, if not all, safety rules were developed (and are being developed) after many serious accidents occurred that resulted in severe injuries, pain, disease and death. There is no known safety rule that does not address a serious hazard. There is no rule that says you must wear a sweater when the temperature is below 55 degrees because you might be chilly.

Safety rules are for your own good. If followed, they protect your life!

Safety Concerns:
