



**Lesson:** General Safety Provisions

**Lesson Objectives:**

- Describe why a safety program is important and describe the difference between a competent and qualified person
- Summarize elements of a safety and health program
- Explain OSHA's basic safety standards

**Topics:**

- Overview
- Elements of a Safety and Health Program
- Basic Safety Standards

### **Topic: Overview**

In this topic you learned why a safety program is important and the difference between a competent and a qualified person. Having completed this topic, you should be able to:

- Describe why a safety program is important
- Identify a different role of a competent and a qualified person

#### Topic summary:

Please take a moment to review these points before you continue with the next topic.

- The goal of any safety and health program is to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatalities while achieving compliance with OSHA standards and the General Duty Clause.
- Safety is a team effort among workers, supervisors, and management.
- The difference between a competent person and a qualified person lies in the "authority" granted to the competent person to take action to correct or eliminate hazards.

### **Topic: Elements of a Safety and Health Program**

A successful safety and health program starts with basic requirements and incorporates every operation on the job. According to OSHA, a safety and health program should have the following core elements:

- Management leadership
- Employee participation
- Hazard identification and assessment
- Hazard prevention and control
- Information and training
- Evaluation of program effectiveness

Having completed this topic, you should be able to summarize each element of a safety and health program.

#### Topic summary:

Please take a moment to review these points before you continue with the next topic.

According to OSHA, a safety and health program should have the following core elements:

- Management leadership – Management demonstrates leadership by providing the resources, motivation, priorities, and accountability for ensuring the safety and health of its workforce.
- Employee participation – Without employees' participation and cooperation, incidents are difficult to prevent.
- Hazard identification and assessment – Worksite analysis and job hazard analysis are two types of tools for identifying and assessing hazards.
- Hazard prevention and control – This includes engineering controls, administrative controls, personal protective equipment, specific written programs, and incident investigations.
- Information and training – Training can help employees develop the knowledge and skills they need to understand workplace hazards. OSHA considers safety and health training vital to every workplace.
- Evaluation of program effectiveness – Initiating an audit trail for evaluating a safety and health program is a way to test the effectiveness of written or informal programs.

### **Topic: Basic Safety Standards**

In this topic you learned about basic safety standards regulated by OSHA. Having completed this topic you should be able to explain the following safety standards:

- First Aid
- Housekeeping
- Illumination
- Sanitation
- Means of Egress
- Emergency Action Plans
- Access to Medical Records

#### Topic summary:

Please take a moment to review these points before you continue with the next topic.

OSHA regulated the following basic safety standards:

- First Aid – First aid services and provisions for medical care need to be made available by the employer for every employee on the job site.
- Housekeeping – OSHA has requirements for housekeeping such as, combustible scrap and debris must be removed at regular intervals during the course of construction and containers used for garbage and other oily, flammable, or hazardous wastes, such as caustics, acids, harmful dusts, etc., must be equipped with covers.
- Illumination – OSHA requires that certain areas (aisles, stairs, ramps, runways, corridors, offices, shops, and storage areas) on a construction site be lighted, either naturally or by illumination devices

- Sanitation – OSHA has requirements for drinking water, other sources of water, toilet facilities, and washing facilities.
- Means of Egress – OSHA requires that every building or structure must have exits that are free from obstruction at all times when it is occupied.
- Emergency Action Plans – Emergency action plans that are required by any particular OSHA standard must meet the requirements.
- Access to Medical Records – Employers in the construction industry must provide records access to all employees exposed to toxic substances and harmful physical agents, their employee representatives, health professionals, and OSHA.