

# Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



## Home Healthy - Home Safe

Date: April 2023

### « Here's Your Sign » Barricades and Hazard Posting

What is a barricade? Merriam-Webster defines barricade as verb meaning to block off or stop up with a barricade or to prevent access to by means of a barricade. In Occupational Safety and Health, we use barricades to control exposures to hazards, protecting the workers, craft persons or the public. OSHA's "fatal four" are falls, struck by objects, electrocutions and caught in/between. How many fatal four fatalities could be prevented by a hazard barricade or sign?

We don't normally think about the public in terms of workplace protection, but what would be some examples where we protect the public from workplace hazards? The most obvious is fencing and controlling the construction jobsite to prevent the public from accessing the jobsite and being exposed to construction worksite hazards. The second example is traffic control. However, traffic control not only protects the public from worksite conditions it also protects the workers from the public drivers to assure they are controlled by speed and direction.

On jobsites however, signs and barricades are often caution/danger tape areas used to keep foot traffic out of potentially hazardous areas due to the type of work being performed. At Apollo we often put-up danger tape when installing material at heights to avoid individuals walking under our work area in case of an unwanted drop or rigging failure.

**HEALTHY OR SAFETY REMINDER:** Our worksites are ever evolving and changing, we must be vigilant to changing conditions, hazards, and postings. Communicating changing and/or new hazards should be part of daily worksite pre-job discussions. If you see something, say something, or do something.

The Apollo procedure *Signs, Signals and Barricades* AISH 30 provides the minimum requirements prior to start of construction. Here are some basic points to keep in mind when establishing signs, signals, and barricades:

- Is there a hazard, is there exposure to a hazard, and what is the hazard or communicate the hazard (e.g. overhead hazard, noise, silica, asbestos, etc.)
- Signs, signals, and barricades shall be always visible when the work is being performed and promptly removed or covered when the hazard no longer exists.
- Danger indicates a hazardous situation that if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. Danger signs shall be red with black lettering and used with danger tape only (do not put danger signs on yellow caution tape).
- You should always ask for permission from the barricade owner before entering a barricaded area. Entering a "Danger" area without permission is grounds for immediate termination.
- Barricades should be visible from all directions of traffic and must have a sign on them.
- Caution indicates a hazardous situation that if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury. Caution signs shall be yellow with black lettering.

#### Discussion Points/Quiz Questions:

1. What workplace hazard posting could prevent a fatal four fatality? Overhead hazard, crane swing radius...
2. What Apollo procedure should be reviewed for the basic hazard posting requirements? AISH 30
3. If you see something and you say something or do something, what Apollo value or vision are you demonstrating? Besides safety...