

CHIP Community Cares Day Safety Basics

1. Keep an eye on safety. If you see something unsafe, say something. "Let me hold the ladder for you." "Here is an extra pair of safety glasses." "Let's take a break."
2. Remember to wear long pants, closed toe shoes and a shirt at the work site. This is for respect and safety. We all need to use protective clothing as appropriate. This includes safety glasses, gloves, ear protection, and hard hats. If you forgot protective gear, ask your Crew Leader. He or she can find one for you or help you find a different task.
3. If you are unsure of your ability to perform a task, say so. There are many jobs at each work site, for all abilities. Talk to your crew leader, if you need a different job.
4. Be aware of everyone's pace. Take breaks and drink water frequently. Stay hydrated! Make sure you are protected from the sun (sunscreen and hats). A hot and sunny day can quickly affect how you feel. Group breaks give us a chance to check in and see how everyone is doing.
5. Concentrate on what you are doing. It only takes a second to have an accident.
6. Ask questions. Have an experienced team member explain how to use even basic tools before the day begins. Have the Construction Leader explain the overall goals, how things go together and things to watch out for.
7. Remember the old adage, "Measure twice, cut once."
8. Keep the work site picked up to reduce the risk of someone tripping over materials.
9. Unplug power tools that are not in use.
10. Know where the first aid kit is and what is in it. Does anyone have allergies or medical conditions that the crew should be aware of? Who will make an emergency call if necessary? Who will drive a vehicle in case of an emergency? Decide this before the work day begins.
11. "If it's questionable, we will hire a professional." If a job requires skills or equipment beyond your group's abilities, CHIP can hire a professional to do the job. Bring any issues to the attention of the Crew Leader so that he or she can write them up in a report to CHIP.
12. Leaders should review both safety and construction plans with another skilled carpenter before beginning work.
13. Have FUN! We have come together to get a project done. But we have also gathered together to build relationships and create community. Take the time to get to know your team and the homeowners. Make connections that will last beyond today.

Power Tools

All tools can be dangerous and should be used with great caution.

1. Minimize mistakes by using tools correctly, for their intended purpose.
2. Group leaders should evaluate volunteers' capabilities when assigning tasks at the work site. Do not assign a volunteer to use a power tool if you have any concerns about safe operation.
3. Likewise, those who volunteer to use power tools should be able to demonstrate safe and proper operation to the group leader, who may offer additional training if necessary.
4. At the work site, designate an area for cutting. The area must be surrounded by a four foot safety zone, which can be marked physically or verbally so that all crew members are aware. Designate the cutting zone in a low traffic area where people will not unintentionally walk through. Establish a workflow.
5. One person at a time should be designated cutter. This role can (and should) change throughout the day.
6. An adult must be within 10 feet of a student (under 18) using a power cutting tool.
7. Once a cut is made, step back and stand still until the blade stops. Stay focused until the blade stops moving.
8. Unplug power tools that are not in use.

Ladders

Climbing a ladder can be one of the most dangerous things you can do on a job site.

1. Use ladder type 3A, appropriately anchored and tied. These can be rented if needed.
2. A spotter should be present at all times when a ladder is in use.
3. Follow the weight and height guidelines on the ladder.
4. For heights beyond the reach of a 24' ladder, rent a cherry picker, where the terrain would allow for its safe use. Otherwise, refer such jobs to professional carpenters.

Roofs

1. Only CHIP volunteers 18 and over can be on roofs.
2. No one will be asked to be on a roof who isn't comfortable.

3. CHIP allows volunteers on one story roofs of 6 pitch or less. All other roofs will be referred to professional roofers.
4. Roofs that meet pitch and height requirements must also be assessed for safety. Is the roof underlayment in okay condition? What is the terrain around the house like? Any other hazards?
5. Use ladders and ladder brackets to put on the first couple rows of shingles.
6. Use scaffolding brackets with attached toe and hand rails.
7. Harnesses are not appropriate for low pitch roofs nor for volunteers who are unfamiliar with them.