



Toolbox Talks

Spotlight on Safety



Foot Protection

It hurts when someone steps on your toe, so imagine how much more it would hurt if you dropped a pipe or reel of wire on your foot. Protect your feet when working on construction sites by wearing proper work shoes or boots. Safety shoes and boots with protective toe caps built in are even better, and safety shoes and boots today are as comfortable as any shoe or boot you can buy.

Utility construction workers are routinely exposed to foot hazards, so protecting your feet is vital. Foot hazards include: dropping tools, materials, or other objects; rolling pipe or wire wheels; machinery and equipment; slips and trips; jackhammers and tampers; nails and sharp objects; wet and damp work areas.

- ▲ Stay alert and be aware of anything that could fall or drop on your feet.
- ▲ Stay clear of pipe that could roll over your foot—always use chocks to keep pipe from rolling.
- ▲ Stand back when cutting banding used to secure stacks of pipe.
- ▲ Push wire reels from behind and watch out for other workers when rolling wire reels into place.
- ▲ Stand back from moving equipment and make sure the operator knows where you are.
- ▲ Step carefully when any slippery material (grease, mud or sludge) is under foot.
- ▲ Wear metatarsal toe guards over your boots when working with jackhammers and tampers just in case the equipment bounces a little too high and onto your foot.
- ▲ Remove nails from scrap lumber and pick up any loose nails or sharp objects.
- ▲ Wear waterproof/rubber boots when working in water or muddy soil. Also wear rubber boots or over-shoes when working with concrete.
- ▲ Keep a dry pair of socks handy so you can change into them if your feet get wet.
- ▲ Wear rubber boots that don't require shoes or boots inside and don't share them with other workers. Keep any foot infections to yourself.
- ▲ Never wear sneakers, opened-toed shoes, or sandals at construction sites.

***Your feet carry you from place to place, and I'm sure you would prefer to keep it that way.
It's not easy to get around with crutches, canes, and wheelchair, so protect your toes
and feet by wearing heavy-duty work shoes or boots on the job every day.***