

THE TRUE MEANING OF SAFETY RULES

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"Rules" are used in our every day life. This is true in competitive sports—we play by the rules. It is true of card games—we play according to Hoyle. It is true of traffic—we drive in compliance with the rules of the road. Penalties are imposed only if we are caught in our violation. The penalty may be "meager or dire" depending on our activity when caught.

Safety rules might better be called "guides," "practices," "methods," or any other term. But call them what you will, they are directions to safe work procedures. If followed, they will keep accidents and injuries at a minimum. But violate them—and get caught—the penalty may be permanent injury or death.

Safety rules are not arbitrary "do's" and "don'ts." They were formulated because of bitter accident experience. If a workman looks on them as a "work bible" and follows them religiously, he improves his chances of living to a ripe old age without becoming crippled by a needless accident.

Supervisors should explain the intent of "safety rules" and should set a good example by close personal adherence to them.

Good rules are important to any successful accident prevention program, just as good laws are necessary to a good society.

TEN RULES TO LIVE BY

1. Correct or report unsafe conditions.
2. Use personal protective equipment required for the conditions and work being done.
3. Don't horseplay; avoid distracting others.
4. Follow instructions; don't take unnecessary chances. If you don't know, ask.
5. Use the right tools for the job. Keep them in good condition. Use them properly.

6. Help keep everything clean and orderly.
7. Do not work or walk under suspended loads.
8. Beware of moving equipment and machinery.
9. Know your strength. Get help for heavy loads. Lift with your legs.
10. Never leave tools or materials in a position where they may fall from a height or where they are a tripping hazard.

Your employer may have other and more specific rules. Know them.
Comply with them.