



# SAFETY PAGES

January 2022  
Safety Pages:

Seven Common Accident Causes..... P. [2-3](#)  
Hand Safety..... P. [4-5](#)  
Winter Driving Safety..... P. [6-7](#)  
Stairs and Walkways ..... P. [8-9](#)

Remember if you have any safety suggestions, questions or concerns please let us know. In addition, if you have a safety topic that you would like covered in a Safety Page for training purposes let us know and we will develop one. Topics to our inventory of monthly Safety Pages are continually being added.



The OHBA/SAIF Safety Pages are an ongoing series of pages, designed to provide a selection of safety topics each month to OHBA members. Please use these pages to add to (or start) either a Safety Committee file or manual for your company. Some of the Safety Pages will be on general topics and others will be for Owner/Supervisors. The Owner/Supervisor Safety Pages will be on topics based more on compliance or suggested management safety practices.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Oregon Home Builders Association Safety Committee's purpose is to provide safety guidelines, information and resources to help our members work more safely and reduce jobsite accidents. Full and active monthly participation in safety meetings using the OHBA Safety Committee's agendas, topics and checklists will only meet safety committee requirements. It remains your responsibility to comply with all aspects of safety rules and regulations.

Brad Nanke, Oregon Home Builders Association, Safety Consultant  
2075 Madrona Ave. SE STE. 150, Salem, Oregon 97302 541.971.6669 cell 503.362.5120 fax [www.oregonhba.com](http://www.oregonhba.com)

# OHBA Safety Pages: Seven Common Accident Causes

## Introduction:

Consider this statistic: 80 out of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident. Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions.

Accidents occur for many reasons. In most industries people tend to look for "things" to blame when an accident happens, because it's easier than looking for "root causes," such as those listed below.

Consider the underlying accident causes described. Have you been guilty of any of these attitudes or behaviors? If so, you may have not been injured...but next time you may not be so lucky.



## Main Message:

1. **Taking Shortcuts:** Every day we make decisions we hope will make the job faster and more efficient. But do time savers ever risk your own safety, or that of other crew members? Shortcuts that reduce your safety on the job are not shortcuts but an increased chance for injury.
2. **Being Over-Confident:** Confidence is a good thing. Overconfidence is too much of a good thing. "It'll never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to improper procedures, tools, or methods in your work. Any of these can lead to an injury.
3. **Starting a Task with Incomplete Instructions:** To do the job safely and right the first time you need complete information. Have you ever seen a worker sent to do a job, having been given only a part of the job's instructions? Don't be shy about asking for explanations about work procedures and safety precautions. It isn't dumb to ask questions; it's dumb not to.
4. **Poor Housekeeping:** When clients, managers or safety professionals walk through your work site, housekeeping is an accurate indicator of everyone's attitude about quality, production and safety. Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types. A well maintained area sets a standard for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves both pride and safety.
5. **Ignoring Safety Procedures:** Purposely failing to observe safety procedures can endanger you and your co-workers. You are being paid to follow the company safety policies-not to make your own rules. Being "casual" about safety can lead to a casualty!
6. **Mental Distractions from Work:** Having a bad day at home and worrying about it at work is a hazardous combination. Dropping your 'mental' guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures. You can also be distracted when you're busy working and a friend comes by to talk while you are trying to work. Don't become a statistic because you took your eyes off the machine "just for a minute."
7. **Failure to Pre-Plan the Work:** There is a lot of talk today about Job Hazard Analysis. JHA's are an effective way to figure out the smartest ways to work safely and effectively. Being hasty in starting a task, or not thinking through the process can put you in harms way. Instead, Plan Your Work and then Work Your Plan.

**"It is better to be careful 100 times than to get killed once." Mark Twain**



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

# OHBA Safety Pages: Hand Safety

## **Introduction:**

Protecting your fingers and hands is important for your work and quality of life. Work-related hand injuries are one of the leading reasons workers end up in the emergency room and miss work. Damage to the nerves in your fingers and hands, loss of a finger, a skin burn or allergic reaction, can negatively impact the quality of your work, your productivity – or worse – end your career and seriously detract from your quality of life. The cost of these types of injuries and illnesses to the construction industry is estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year.



## **Main Message:**

- Always stay alert and focused on keeping your hands safe – not just at the start of work or a task.
- Keep guards on machinery and power tools in place – Don't remove or reposition them. • Use tools and equipment designed for the work being performed and use them as instructed by your supervisor and/or the manufacturer.
- Don't put your hands or fingers near the moving parts of a power tool or equipment. Make sure machinery, equipment and power tools are completely off before you try replacing, cleaning or repairing parts – follow lock-out/ tag-out procedures.
- Identify safety features on tools and equipment before you use them, such as emergency off switches.
- Check tools and equipment to make sure they are in proper working order before beginning a task.
- Keep hands and fingers away from sharp edges (blades, protruding nails, etc.). Never cut toward the palm of your hand.
- Select hand tools that are ergonomic for your hand (the right size, lowest weight, and have features such as grips, anti-vibration handles, handle angles that allow you to work without your wrist bent.)
- Wear gloves that fit your hand and are right for the work being performed – not all gloves protect against all hazards.
- Do not wear rings, other jewelry or lose articles of clothing that could get caught on a moving object.



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

---



---



---



---

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

---



---

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

# OHBA Safety Pages: Winter Driving Safety

If you do much winter driving in Oregon, you've probably seen the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) SNOW ZONE signs that tell you the current requirements for chains or traction tires. But do you know what they mean? Here are some reminders.

1. You must have chains or traction tires in or on your vehicle; they must be the right size for your vehicle, and of sufficient number to comply with ODOT's chain requirements.
2. You must use chains if your vehicle is towing or rated more than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW). Chains must also be used on a trailer or vehicle being towed if it has a brake that operates while in tow.
3. You must use chains if your vehicle is towing or weighs over 10,000 pounds GVW. If your vehicle weighs 10,000 pounds GVW or less and is not towing you must use chains or traction tires. Chains must also be used on a trailer or vehicle being towed if it has a brake that operates while in tow.



Drivers who disobey SNOW ZONE signs are subject to a class C traffic infraction.

During severe weather, ODOT may require all vehicles to use chains. This is known as a conditional road closure. Chains include any device that attaches to the wheel, vehicle, or outside of the tire, that is designed to increase traction on ice and snow.

Traction tires are studded tires or other tires that are suitable for use in severe snow conditions. These tires are marked with a mountain/snowflake emblem on the sidewall like this:



Studs must be made of a rigid material that wears at the same rate as the tire tread and must extend at least 0.04 inch but not more than 0.06 inch beyond the tread surface. Studded tires are legal for use in Oregon from Nov. 1 to April 1. For information on tires that are suitable for use in severe snow conditions, contact your tire dealer. A four-wheel or all-wheel drive passenger vehicle is exempt from ODOT's chain requirements if all of the following are true:

- a. It has an unloaded weight of 6,500 pounds or less.
- b. It is operated to provide power to both the front and rear wheels.
- c. It is carrying chains.
- d. It has mud-and-snow, all-weather radial, or traction tires on all of its wheels.
- e. It is not towing another vehicle.
- f. It is not being operated in a manner or under conditions that cause the vehicle to lose traction.

For more information, click on "Trip Check" on the ODOT Web site: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/)



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

---



---



---



---

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

---



---

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

# OHBA Safety Pages: Stairs and Walkways

Stairways and walkways in all businesses can be the cause of injury accidents. These passageways may not typically get the maintenance they need, since they are "only" access ways and not production areas.

Here are some safety tips to help eliminate exposures.



1. Always try to keep one hand free to use the handrails, both up and down the stairways.
2. Keep all stairs and walkways clear of debris and potentially slippery substances such as: water, oil, grease, ice or snow.
3. Keep passageways free of tools, equipment and other materials. Always practice good housekeeping in these non-production areas.
4. When walkways and stairs are provided - use them. Don't short-cut your safety to save a few steps or a few seconds. Doing so saves no time or money if you are injured and cannot work.
5. Handrails and stair steps can become loose and may need to be re-secured or replaced. Immediately notify maintenance or your supervisor of any problems.
6. Secure electrical cords or hoses so that they do not lie across walkways. If electrical cords must be laid across walkways, use approved cord covers whenever possible.
7. Take small steps on wet and icy walkways. Use handholds to stabilize yourself when they are available. Asphalt and oiled surfaces can also be hazardous because rainwater may produce an oil sheen and create slippery walking conditions.

Unlike some exposures, slippery walkways or stairway hazards can appear without warning. Take action to remedy the problem when you see it.

Because...

**Zero Unsafe Behaviors + Zero Unsafe Conditions = Zero Accidents + Zero Injuries**



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Business Owner of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Signature Consulting Services guarantee to the Business Owner or others that the property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Business Owners remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.



Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, and work practices:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

(Print)

(Signature)