In 2014, 16% of workplace fatalities were a result of employees coming in contact with an object or equipment. These seemingly simple accidents resulted in 740 workplace fatalities, or an average of 14 fatalities per week, many of which could have been prevented by using the proper barricade.

Signs, signals, and barricades are the means we use to alert employees, contractors, and the general public as to the dangers that lie beyond when we conduct our daily tasks, either in the plant or the field. There are many styles of barricades and warning devices, each with its own purpose and safety level.

Many barricades are just guidelines to maintain orderly flow while other barricades are intended to warn people to stay out of potentially dangerous situations, such as the swing zone of a mobile crane.

In our workplace, barricades are not just suggestions, the barriers are there to protect you from injury or save your life. OSHA defines a barricade as “an obstruction to deter the passage of persons or vehicles.”

Many people are not aware of the dangers behind barricades, so your goal should be to communicate to the employees in the plainest terms what the danger level is through the type of tape used, plus signs, warning lights and instructions. Barricades come in many forms such as barricade tape, colored chain, screens, cones, and machine guards.

You can make your own barricades as long as they do the job of communicating the danger and deterring the passage of persons or vehicles, or limiting access to a hazardous area. Barricades can be fabricated out of metal pipe with bases, purchased delineator cones, or commercially available barricade systems.

OSHA, ANSI and various levels of government have specific rules for some situations requiring barricades (especially anything traffic related), but not all situations. Common sense and workplace experience should factor into your barricade best practices.

Barricade tape is made with durable, resilient, tear-proof plastic materials such as polyethylene, polypropylene, or nylon. It is at least 2 mm thick and 3 inches wide. Barricade tape often has a bright background and pre-printed bold warning text. It is also possible to purchase plain barricade tape and write a custom message on it. However, care should be taken when using custom tape, as all barricade tape designs are required to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and American National Standards Institute(ANSI) regulations (when used for purposes subject to regulation by these organizations).
Yellow Barricade Tape:

- Yellow barricade tape shall be used to communicate **CAUTION: HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS!** Caution indicates a hazardous condition that may result in moderate injury. Personnel may enter areas barricaded with yellow barricade tape, provided they understand the hazards present, stay clear of potential hazards, and stay clear of employees working on the job.

Red Barricade Tape:

- Red barricade tape or red barricade fencing shall be used to communicate **DANGER: DO NOT ENTER!** Danger indicates an immediately hazardous situation that could cause death or serious injury. Only authorized employees may enter and work in areas so barricaded. Others shall stay out of the designated work area until allowed access by authorized employees on the job.

The Barricade

Properly setting up the barricade tape is the key to its effectiveness. The barricaded area should be completely enclosed, with the barricade tape placed approximately 36" above grade. The barricade tape shouldn't sag and should be securely fastened to stanchions or another support structure so that the barricade does not fall down. A sign should be hung at the barricade alerting employees to the dangers present. **DO NOT leave any gaps in the barricade so that people can inadvertently walk through into the hazardous area.**
WEEKLY SAFETY PROGRAM REVIEW AND PRESENTATION

1. Remind all employees that it is their right to a safe work place. Each employee is responsible to report and respond to unsafe work practices and conditions.

2. Review of recent incidents, injuries, and reported near misses.

3. Recent observations, safety violations, and demonstrated lack of knowledge or skills.

4. Employee suggested corrective actions for avoiding future reoccurrences.

5. Existing and upcoming work activities and potential hazards. Include review of supporting materials or documents and demonstrate safe work procedures.

6. Employee workplace safety concerns and recommendations.

7. Safety topic presentation. Include review of company policies, procedures, and location specific expectations. Encourage questions and clarifications.

8. Additional meeting notes.
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