

## A is for Assess Your Environment

Every morning, before your crew grabs their tools or steps into a work zone, they should hit pause, slow down, and take a moment to look around. What do they see, hear, or smell that could be a hazard?

- Blocked pathways?
- Electrical cords near water?
- A vehicle warming up too close to foot traffic?



Taking a moment to assess your surroundings can prevent injuries — because what you overlook today could cause harm tomorrow.

**“You can’t fix what you don’t notice—and your crew won’t notice if they’re rushing.”**

One careless decision led Russ to a life with paraplegia. We share our story hoping just one person will slow down, look twice, and choose safety.

Now’s the time for a quick five-minute activity — here’s what you’ll need.

**Set a timer for 60 seconds and ask three volunteers to take 10 steps and identify one potential hazard — something small they’d usually overlook.**

### What to Do After the Walk:

- **Gather the team.** Circle back together once the scan is complete.
- **Ask your volunteers to share one thing they noticed.** Especially if it’s something that normally gets overlooked.
- **If any hazard is found—fix it, flag it, or report it.** Right now, before someone gets hurt.
- **Talk about patterns.** Are the same types of hazards showing up again and again?
- **Set a small improvement goal.** “Let’s keep that tool cart clear today” or “Everyone checks footing before climbing.”
- **Repeat weekly—or daily if needed.** The more often it’s done, the sharper everyone’s awareness becomes.
- **Additionally, we’ve provided a hazard hunter checklist on the next page** to take this activity a step further.



#### Location

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# Hazard Hunter Checklist

## WALKING SURFACES

**What's under your feet could change everything.**

- ☐ Loose gravel or uneven terrain
- ☐ Wet/slippery spots (rain, oil, ice)
- ☐ Trip hazards (cords, hoses, stray tools)

**If you had to carry your child across this surface, would you trust it?**

## ELECTRICAL & POWER

**Electricity doesn't forgive shortcuts.**

- ☐ Cords across walkways
- ☐ Exposed wires or broken plugs
- ☐ Equipment running near flammables

**If that spark sends someone to the hospital... will you still call it 'no big deal'?**

## VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

**It only takes one blind spot to lose someone for good.**

- ☐ No clear pedestrian lanes near machines
- ☐ Reversing vehicles with no spotters
- ☐ Blocked emergency access

**If your children were walking nearby—would this layout be good enough?**

## FALL & OVERHEAD HAZARDS

**It's not the fall. It's what gets taken away after.**

- ☐ Guardrails or fall protection in place for heights 6 ft. or more
- ☐ Workers in lifts are wearing harnesses (with lanyards connected)
- ☐ Overhead loads are clearly marked or barricaded
- ☐ No one walking or working beneath active lifts or suspended materials

**If someone you loved were working below this, would you keep walking and ignore the risk?**

## TOOL & MATERIAL STORAGE

**What we leave behind could be what someone trips over next.**

- ☐ Tools not returned or left in walking paths
- ☐ Overloaded shelves or unstable piles
- ☐ Missing guards or frayed cords on tools

**It's not just about being tidy—it's about being responsible for each other.**

## Heart-Centered Self-Reflection

Why are you working safely every day? (Put a name and the reason.)

If your family walked this site... would you feel safe and confident?

Would you still ignore that if someone you loved worked here?

What would you fix if today was your last chance?

Did you protect people today—or just complete the job?

**Keep the A–Z momentum going and continue to the next letter:**

**B – Boots & Body Protection: Choose the right ones for the job.**



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