

Toolbox Talk: Safety Third

You've probably heard the phrase "**Safety First.**" Today, we're flipping that on its head. Before anyone panics, this isn't about ignoring safety. It's about understanding that **slogans don't keep you safe—your actions do.**

What "Safety Third" Really Means

It's a reminder that just saying safety is the priority doesn't make it true. Blindly following rules without thinking can still get you hurt. Real safety comes from **awareness, preparation, and accountability.**

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| 1 | First Get the job done — productivity matters |
| 2 | Second Do it well — quality matters |
| 3 | Third Stay safe while doing it — because if you're hurt, none of the above matter |

i The goal is **managed risk**, not zero risk. If safety were truly first in every situation, we'd never take any risks—and no work would get done.

Key Points to Remember

→ Pay Attention

Most incidents happen when people are distracted or rushing.

→ Understand the Hazards

Don't just follow a checklist—know *why* the rule exists.

→ Speak Up

If something feels off, it probably is.

→ Own Your Safety

It's not your supervisor's job, or the company's slogan—it's **yours.**

"Safety Third" isn't about downgrading safety—it's about cutting through the noise. When you stop relying on slogans and start thinking critically, **that's when you actually stay safe.**

? **Discussion Question:** Have you ever seen someone following the rules but still doing something unsafe? What happened?

