

Sample Safety Talk Topics for the Continuing Care Industry

This list is intended to serve as a sample of potential safety talk topics and can be individualized, added to, or changed for specific organizations, facilities or departments. Consider creating your own relevant list of safety talk topics as your workplace faces new hazards and consider referring to your facility or department hazard assessments to begin compiling your own list. Be mindful that while the best safety talks are directly related to the work the staff is conducting, safety talks can also be related to seasonal activities or those completed on employees' personal time. A true attitude of safety extends beyond the workplace into everyday life.

Note: there are many available safety talk topics online; some even include specific information to pass along to your staff during your safety talk. Find your favorite sites, bookmark them and start building your very own personalized safety talk collection.

General Safety Talk Topics for ALL DEPARTMENTS

Alberta OHS legislations and responsibilities	Consequences of rushing	Employee Responsibilities
AED's / CPR	Contractor Safety	Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)
Air contaminants	Controlling stress	Ergonomics
Alcohol use	Cords in the workplace	Escalators
Allergies	Corrosive cleaning products and other potentially hazardous chemicals	Exit Routes and Employee Alarm Systems
Asbestos	Costs: what do workplace incidents cost the province, industry, organization, facility, etc	Eye Protection
Attitude and behaviour	Cuts and Burns	Eyewash
Automatic sprinkler systems	Death: dealing with death in the healthcare workplace	Face Protection
Awkward Postures	Dementia: understanding risks and preventing violence	Fatigue
Avoiding electrical shocks	Drinking Water and dehydration	Fire Extinguishers
Bed Bugs	Driving Safety	First Aid
Behavioural Safety	Elevators	Flammables and combustibles
Bullying	Emergency Response	Floods - Preparing for and Working Around
Carelessness	Emergency Washing Facilities (Eyewash): Importance and how to operate	Floors
Cart use	Employee emergency plans and fire prevention plans	Flu (all varieties)
Cell Phones		Food Flavoring
Cigarette Smoke and quitting smoking		Food-Handling Facilities
Cold weather hazards		Foot Protection
Compliance		Gloves
Compressed Gas Cylinders		



Grinders	Influenza	Required Training
Grocery store meat departments	Injury and Illness Reporting	Return to Work Programs and modified duties
Grounding	Intruders	Root Cause Analysis
Guard Rails	Ladder Safety	Safe Workplace
Guarding Machines	Latex Allergies	Safety & Health complaints
H1N1	Lawnmowers	Safety and Health Investment Projects
Hair salons and formaldehyde	Leg Protection	Safety Bulletin Board
Hand and Portable Power Tools	Lessons Learned: Fatality & Serious Injury Investigations	Safety committees & meetings
Hand Protection	Lifting Injury Prevention	Shift work
Handrails	Lighting	Skin Safety and the Sun
Handwashing	Lockout/Tagout	Slips, trips, falls
Hantavirus (Animal Borne Diseases)	Machine safety	Smoke Detectors
Hazard Alerts, Bulletins & Notices	Manufacturers, Importers & Distributors Hazard Communication	Snow removal
Hazard Assessment	Material Handling	Stairs and Walkways
Hazard Communication	MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets)	Sunglasses
Hazardous Drugs	Musculoskeletal Hazards	Supervisors and their Safety role
Hazardous Locations	Near Miss	Supporting New Co-Workers
Head Protection	Obesity	WHMIS
Health and safety culture	OHS Committee: who they are and what they do	What motivates us to work safely?
Healthy Eating	Office Safety & Health	Why taking your break = safe work
Hearing Loss, Prevention and Noise	Oxygen tank storage	Why we have safety talks?
Heat Stress	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)- inspection, use and maintenance	Working Alone
Housekeeping	Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection	Working Short-staffed
Hydraulics	Report workplace health and safety hazards	Workplace inspections: what's the point?
Incident Cost Estimator	Reporting a workplace death, injury or hospitalization	Workplace violence
Incident Investigation		Workplace wellness
Incident Investigation Kits		
Infection control		

Safety Talk Topics for Kitchen and Dining

Aggressive residents	Flammable liquids	Outbreak
Anti-fatigue mats: why they help	Food safety	Oven Use and cleaning
Avoiding slips, trips and falls	Freezer safety	PPE use in the kitchen
Avoiding stress in the dining room	Garberator safety	Repetitive strain injuries
Avoiding stress in the kitchen	Good Housekeeping	Safe meal service
Burns and Cuts	Hot trays and steam tables	Safe stove use
Chemicals in the kitchen	Hygiene	Sanitizing
Communication in the kitchen	Knife safety	Steamer use and cleaning
Consequences of rushing	Lifting in the dining room	Stock room placement of goods
Deep fryer dangers	Lifting in the kitchen	Transporting hot food
Dining Room safety	Meat Cutter Hazards	Unloading groceries
Dish pit safety	Microwave ovens	Verbal abuse
Electrical cords	Mixer use and cleaning	Working alone or short staffed
	Opening boxes safely	

Safety Talk Topics for Maintenance

Boilerroom safety	How to handle informal maintenance requests from staff	PPE use for maintenance tasks
Confined Space	Fall Protection, Fall Restraint & Fall Arrest	Pre-use inspection checklists
Carpet Removal	Fire Extinguishers	Safe furniture storage
Changing light bulbs and ballasts safely	Flammable products	Safe MMH
Chemical safety	Hand and Portable Power Tools	Safely moving mechanical beds
Chemical storage	Ladder Use	Snow removal
Christmas season safety- outdoor lights, indoor decorations, Christmas trees	Lock out/Tag out	Static electricity
Dealing with the aggressive resident	Machinery and moving parts	Storage sheds
Dealing with infestations	Mechanical lifts and preventative maintenance	Summer safety – lawn mowers, leaf blowers, cement patching/resurfacing
Gas lines: call before you dig	Mould-detection and protection	What to do when you're working alone and you need another set of hands: safe strategies
Hot work	Opening boxes safely	Workbench housekeeping
	Painting safety	

Safety Talk Topics for Recreation

Aggressive Residents	General health and wellness	Safe Resident Handling
Arts and crafts and chemical use	Heat illnesses	Safe storage of loads while transporting residents to off-site locations
Benefits of exercise	Hydration	Scissor Safety
Bus Safety	Moving furniture safely	Sunscreen
Communicating for safety	Safe storage of recreation material and equipment	Volunteer safety
Computer ergonomics	Safe Manual Materials Handling	
Dementia		

Safety Talk Topics for OT/PT

Assessing new residents	Pushing/using wheelchairs	Safe storage of equipment and walking aids
Benefits of exercise	Resident Aggression	Slider sheet use
Cavi-wipe safety	Resident Mobility Assessment - Daily re-evaluation	Sling and lift Inspection
Computer ergonomics	Resident walking assistance	Transfer belt use
Communicating for safety	Safe Manual Material Handling	Transfer logogs
Dementia	Safe Resident Handling	

Safety Talk Topics for Administration

Computer ergonomics	Minimizing stress at work	Safe Manual Material Handling
Dealing with aggressive clients	Opening boxes safely	Safe storage and placement of electric cords
Electric static and the office	Photocopier hazards	Static positions for fixed periods
Eye strain	Positive and negative safety-Feedback delivery	Workplace coaching for safety
Hand washing	Preventing paper cuts	
Modified work stations (ie. swiss balls, standing desks)	Psychological hazards in the workplace	
Managing safety by walking around	Repetitive strain injuries	

Safety Talk Topics for Housekeeping

Aggressive Residents	Housekeeping carts: what safety equipment should be kept on carts	Outbreak
Benefits of making beds with a work partner	Ladder use	PPE (department specific)
Benefits of ergonomic equipment	Laundry hazards	Responding to resident emergencies
Chemical Safety	Learn to minimize repetitive movements – mini breaks, change tasks	Safe garbage disposal
Cleaning bathrooms: how to stay safe	Mopping and Sweeping - prevent shoulder and back injuries	Safe Manual Materials Handling
Cluttered Rooms-how to clean and how to report	Moving furniture safely	Shampooing and/or mopping challenges
Consequences of rushing	Opening boxes safely	Taking breaks for safety
Dealing with infestations	Overuse of chemicals	Vacuuming safely: how to
Dust		Washing Windows
Eyewash stations		Why 'Splash proof' goggles

Safety Talk Topics for Care Staff

Aggressive Residents	Handling unreasonable care requests	Safe Patient Handling
Blood-borne pathogens	Hand-washing vs hand sanitizer	Safely dressing and washing residents
Bariatric Residents	Heat illnesses	Soaker pad vs slider sheets
Bathing residents	Infection control	Sling and lift- inspection and use
Benefits of exercise	Medication	Transfer belt use
Brake use on mechanical lifts	Needle-stick Injuries	Transfer logos: benefits
Communicating for safety	Mask fitting	Working in dimly-lit areas
Consequences of rushing	Opening boxes safely	Working short staffed
Cords in the workplace	Outbreak	
Dealing with residents' families	Oxygen Tank Filling	
Dementia	Pushing/using wheelchairs	
Emergency procedures	Resident Mobility Assessment - Daily re-evaluation	
Fallen Residents	Safe and appropriate clothing for movement	
Following care plans		

