



SAFETY CORNER

S.O.R.T FOR A SAFER
WORKING ENVIRONMENT
September 2025

THE ACRONYM S.O.R.T. IS A TOOL THAT CAN HELP REMIND US TO TAKE STEPS TO ADDRESS HAZARDS AND CREATE A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT. S.O.R.T STANDS FOR STOP, OBSERVE, RECOGNIZE, AND TAKE OWNERSHIP.

STOP- IT IS NECESSARY TO TAKE TIME NOT ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WORK SHIFT TO EVALUATE BOTH THE WORK AREA AND EQUIPMENT FOR HAZARDS BUT ALSO AS CONDITIONS CHANGE. WHEN WE ARE RUSHED, WE MISS THE SMALL DETAILS THAT MATTER. ALWAYS TAKE THE TIME BEFORE A TASK BEGINS TO EVALUATE THE WORK TASK YOU ARE ABOUT TO DO. ANYTIME CONDITIONS CHANGE, OR THINGS ARE NOT GOING AS PLANNED, STOP WORK AND EVALUATE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO CORRECT THE SITUATION.

OBSERVE- TAKE TIME TO EVALUATE THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND YOU. HOW ARE THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, LIGHTING, AND TEMPERATURE AT THE WORK AREA? ARE THE NEEDED PERSONNEL AND TOOLS IN THE WORK AREA READY TO GO? HAS ALL EQUIPMENT BEEN THOROUGHLY INSPECTED PRIOR TO STARTING THE WORK TASK? HAS ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK, SUCH AS SOPs, JSAs, OR PERMITS, BEEN REVIEWED AND COMPLETED?

RECOGNIZE- ONCE YOU HAVE STOPPED AND OBSERVED THE WORK AREA, WHAT HAZARDS DO YOU SEE? YOUR ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE HAZARDS COMES DOWN TO UTILIZING TRAINING, SAFETY MEETINGS, COMPANY POLICIES, LESSONS LEARNED, SAFETY SHARES, AND PAST EXPERIENCES. MUCH TIME IS SPENT DISCUSSING AND TRAINING EVERYONE ONSITE TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE HAZARDS IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THEM AND PROTECT OURSELVES FROM INJURY.

TAKE OWNERSHIP- OWNERSHIP IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS. ONCE YOU RECOGNIZE HAZARDS OR POTENTIAL ISSUES WHILE ON THE JOB, OWN THEM. SEE THROUGH THAT THEY GET PROPERLY CORRECTED IN A TIMELY MANNER. IT IS EASY TO JUST WALK PAST AN ISSUE AND THINK THAT IT IS NOT YOUR PROBLEM. IN REALITY, ANY HAZARD ON THE JOB IS YOUR PROBLEM. IF SOMEONE ELSE IS HURT OR THERE IS PROPERTY DAMAGE DUE TO THE HAZARD YOU RECOGNIZED AND WALKED PAST, IT WILL HAVE SOME SORT OF EFFECT ON YOU.

By: Anthony Calascibetta, NEPPA TRAINER