

# SAFETY

We take safety *very* seriously.

Here are some of our safety tips and precautions:

- Group requires all churches to provide verification that a national background check has been completed for all adults (21 & older) participating in the camp.
- Participants aren't required to work in high places or on ladders if they feel unsure about the work. If people on your crew are nervous about working on a roof, don't pressure them. If you feel uncomfortable, don't feel pressured to climb a ladder. Please mention these fears to the crew manager at check-in. We will do our best to assign you to a different site.
- Each camp participant must bring a pair of safety goggles to camp. Do a last minute check to be sure that everyone has his or her goggles.
- Safety goggles must be worn when power tools are used, when scraping paint, when doing overhead work, or when hammering. Make an effort to remember how important eyesight is.
- Power saws can only be used by participants who are 16 years of age or older. Although younger participants may be experienced using power saws, they are not permitted to use these tools for safety and liability insurance purposes.
- Power tools are not to be used if it's raining or has just rained and the area is wet. Save work requiring power tools for another day or later in the day, or find a safe, dry place to use them.
- For Workcamps®, ladder safety training is recommended for all youth groups prior to attending the mission trip.
- Participants are requested to bring protective clothing, shoes, hats, gloves, sunscreen, and water jugs.
- Close adult supervision is built into the trip program. If the adult needs to leave the site for any reason, another adult (besides the resident) must be present or the entire crew must leave with the adult.
- Important safety notes are made as needed on work descriptions. Read your work description carefully before beginning work.
- Each person's Camper Info Form is on file in the mission trip office. These forms include each person's medical release and parent signature in case of an emergency.
- Each crew will receive a small first-aid kit. Check each day to make sure you have yours and replenish it daily. Supplies are available at the mission trip office.
- Additionally, we have asked youth leaders to bring a first-aid kit and provide all minor health care for their participants.
- Every trip has staff that is first-aid and CPR certified. Local emergency personnel will be called in the case of any emergency.
- Youth leaders are requested to bring only responsible, service-oriented young people who will work carefully in the program. As a youth leader, be prepared to send home members of your youth group who refuse to abide by the Code of Conduct.
- It is the responsibility of the group's adult leader to notify the injured individual's family of any disciplinary situation.
- Local medical facilities and services are identified before camp. Directions and phone numbers are provided in crew packets in case of emergency.

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Safety at the project site begins before work does and participants can rest assured that every project site is inspected for safety before camp.

It is still important to identify potentially dangerous conditions upon arriving at the site. Participants should check for the following hazardous conditions both inside and outside the structures before working:

## BRIEFLY REVIEW THESE DANGERS THAT COULD BE PRESENT AT YOUR SITE:

1. Dogs, cats, and other pets
2. Trash and debris
3. Broken glass
4. Holes in the ground
5. Low electrical lines and electrical wires in or near your work area
6. Insect nests, spiders, and snakes
7. Small children
8. Protruding nails
9. Weak or cracked joists

## EXERCISE EXTRA CAUTION IF YOU ENCOUNTER:

1. **Insect Nests:** Check overhangs, walls, attics, and crawl spaces for wasp and bee nests. Wear protective clothing when removing nests. Also, there is plenty of insecticide for bees and wasps provided in the tool room.
2. **Spiders:** Spiders live in crawl spaces, attics, and woodpiles. Few, except the female black widow and brown recluse, are poisonous. (As well as tarantulas found in Belize and parts of Mexico and Central America). Wear long-sleeved work shirts and long pants tucked into work boots to protect against bites.
3. **Snakes:** Check for snakes before working under a house or picking up boards from a woodpile. Snakes usually won't strike unless surprised or cornered. Back away slowly if you see a snake.
4. **Electrical Hazards:** Check attics and any overhead space for hazardous wiring. Most old knob and tube wiring is dangerous. Rotted insulation leaves dangerous bare wires exposed. Carefully inspect your work area for wires before beginning any work. **AVOID CONTACT WITH ANY AND ALL WIRING. NEVER USE POWER TOOLS IN A WET AREA.**
5. **Unsafe floors and decking:** Weak or rotten floors, porches, and decking might not support a person's weight. Lay a board across three or more joists and crawl across the board. Move cautiously on unstable surfaces. Test an area carefully before putting your full weight on it.
6. **Protruding nails:** When working in an attic, watch for nails protruding through the roof. Also, watch for nails in boards when cleaning up trash.

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Here are some other safety tips while on the work site:

## KEEP YOUR WORK AREA CLEAN:

- Cluttered areas may cause workers to trip, slip, and injure themselves.
- When you finish using tools, return them to a designated area. Don't leave tools lying around.
- Place all trash in containers or piles immediately.
- Place all broken glass in metal or heavy cardboard containers, never put broken glass in plastic bags.
- Remove protruding nails immediately from boards that you tear out.
- Clean up spilled paint immediately.

## LIFT HEAVY OBJECTS PROPERLY:

- Lifting heavy objects correctly protects workers from strains, back injuries, and hernias.
- Know how much you can lift comfortably and get as close as possible to the object you're lifting.
- Plant your feet firmly with one foot slightly in front of the other.
- Bend your knees no more than 90 degrees.
- Keep your back straight. Bend at the hip, not at the back.
- Grip the object firmly and lift with your legs.
- Never carry an object you can't see over or around and make sure no obstructions block your path.

## WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR:

- To prevent injuries, wear safety goggles and other protective equipment.
- Safety goggles protect your eyes from flying splinters and sawdust.
- Facemasks keep dust out of your lungs and make breathing easier.
- Wear gloves to protect your hands from cuts and splinters.

## LEAD-BASED PAINT:

- Many homes we work on contain lead-based paint. It is best to assume that there are underlying layers of lead-based paint at every site.
- We follow proper lead-based paint abatement procedures, specifics will be covered at camp.
- Proper precautions include, but are not limited to, minimizing scraping, always wearing a facemask, gloves, and long-sleeved shirts.