The SLAM technique

The SLAM (Stop…Look…Assess…Manage) technique reminds workers to stop work if they think their health and safety is at risk.

What is SLAM?

Why should I encourage my workers to use SLAM?

By using the SLAM technique workers will value the importance of health and safety and so help create a healthy and safe site. By remembering SLAM, workers are more likely to stop work if a task appears unsafe or risky to their health, or to stop their colleagues behaving in an unsafe or unhealthy way.

How to use the SLAM technique?

There are four stages to SLAM. Workers should:

**Stop**

- Stop the task and think. Look at each step. Ask:
  - Is this a new task?
  - Has the task changed?
  - When was the last time I did this task?
  - Do I feel comfortable doing this task?
  - If not, do I need training?

**Look**

- Look before, during and after completion of the task. Always:
  - inspect the work area for potential hazards, eg unsecured ladders, untidiness;
  - identify the hazards for each step of the job/task; and
  - evaluate what to do about them.

**Assess**

- Are workers equipped to perform the task safely? Check they have the correct:
  - knowledge;
  - skills;
  - training; and
  - tools.

- What else do they need to perform the task safely?
  - Help? (Workers should be encouraged to ask for help.)
  - More training? (Workers should not perform the task until they have been trained.)

**Manage**

- Managers should take appropriate action to eliminate or minimise any hazards on site by:
  - ensuring the proper equipment is used and is well maintained; and
  - thinking about the task just completed and ask, “What went well? What did not go well?”

- Ask yourself:
  - Did anything unexpected happen?
  - How can I be better prepared and plan for this in future?
The Leadership and Worker Involvement toolkit is aimed particularly at small and medium sized businesses and is designed to help improve your health and safety and bring additional benefits to your business performance and productivity.

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