

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S CONSTRUCTION SAFETY POLICY & PLAN

Safety is everybody's concern and is always an important consideration at any construction site. Building construction can be one of the most dangerous occupations. Since Habitat work crews normally have a high proportion of inexperienced people, everyone must pay particular attention to safety. Try to be conscious of the safety of others as well as yourself. An observer can often see danger better than the worker involved in the project. Be cautious at all times and ask questions. Do not go ahead with a task if you are uncertain how it is done, or if you are unable to do it.

Safety is based on knowledge, skill and an attitude of care and concern. Supervisors should instruct each worker about the correct and proper procedures for performing each task. This should familiarize the worker with the potential hazards of doing the tasks and advise him or her as to how such hazards can be minimized or eliminated. It is very important that we at Habitat know about safe work practices and follow them.

Guidelines for a Safe Attitude

1. THINK before you do your work or task.
2. If you are uncertain about how to do a task or how to operate a power tool—ASK A SUPERVISOR.
3. Concentrate on your task and eliminate distractions.
4. Know where the first-aid kit is located and how to get emergency help.
5. Inspect all power tools, hand tools, ladders and scaffolding on a daily basis.
6. Advise your supervisor IMMEDIATELY of any unsafe or hazardous tool or condition.

Proper Safety Equipment

- Proper clothing is as essential to safety as the proper selection and use of tools.
- Wear clothes and gloves that are appropriate for the work and weather conditions. Loose clothing is dangerous around power tools.
- Workers shall wear work boots or thick-soled shoes at all times when on a construction site. Any worker wearing sandals or other types of inappropriate footwear shall not be permitted to remain at a construction site.
- Hard hats are to be worn while doing demolition work, during the framing phase of construction, or when required by a supervisor, and are to be made available to workers on each job site at all times.
- Protective glasses will be available for every construction worker. A worker must wear protective glasses any time he or she is operating a power tool or when instructed by a supervisor.
- Each worker must wear a dust mask when installing insulation, sanding or when instructed by a supervisor.
- Ear plugs must be worn when using a power tool for a prolonged period of time or when instructed by a supervisor. Ear plugs are to be made available to workers on each job site at all times.

Power Tools and Other Electrical Equipment

A power tool should not be used without proper instruction on its use and on what can happen if the tool is not used properly. The instruction should be done by a qualified person

and should be given to all workers; even experienced do-it-yourselfers should receive instruction. The trainee should use the power tool in the presence of the instructor, until the instructor is satisfied that the trainee knows how to use the power tool properly. Never lower or carry a power tool by its cord. Clean tools daily. Power tools should be checked for defective switches, cords, plugs and proper grounding. Defective tools should not be used and should either be reported to the supervisor or labeled and brought to the tool room for repair immediately. (Do not wait until the end of the day.)

To avoid electrical shock, the following rules must be obeyed:

1. A three-pronged plug must be used on all electric power tools.
2. Extension cords must not have frayed insulation or be fastened with staples, hung from nails or suspended from wires.
3. All temporary lights must be equipped with non-conductive guards.

Hand Tools

- Always select the correct type and size of tool for your work and be sure it is sharp and properly adjusted. Guard against using any tool if the handle is loose or in poor condition. Dull tools are hazardous to use because excessive force must be used to make them cut. Oil or dirt on a tool may cause it to slip and cause an injury. When using tools, hold them correctly. Most edged tools should be held in both hands with the cutting action away from yourself. Avoid using your hand or fingers as a guide to start a cut, but if it is necessary, use extreme caution.
- Handle and carry tools with care. Keep edged and pointed tools turned downward.
- Carry only a few tools at one time unless they are mounted in a special holder or carried in a tool belt. Anyone working with a hammer at a height should wear a hammer loop or tool belt, and, when not in use, the hammer should be kept in the loop or belt and not placed on a sloping surface or in a precarious position. Do not carry sharp tools in your pockets.
- When not in use, tools should be kept in special boxes, chests or cabinets.

A special word on saws:

1. Don't bind the blade of any saw. When cutting long panels, the blade may bind, and the saw mill will catch and kick back toward the operator. Use small wood wedges or shim shingles to spread the saw cut as you go along.
2. Maintain the blade guard. A spring-actuated blade guard often can become bent and won't slide quickly, or the spring can become stretched so the return is slow. Repair any damage to the guard as soon as it happens, and NEVER tie the guard back out of the way.
3. Support what you are working on properly. Never attempt to cut something that could tilt or fall and cause the saw to slip.

Ladders

- Inspect a ladder before you use it. If the ladder is unsafe, don't use it. Look for wear and tear, loose rungs and defects.
- Use a ladder that will reach the work. An extension ladder should reach 3 feet above the work level. Move your ladder with your work. If both of your shoulders are extended

outside the ladder while you are working, you are reaching too far. When using an extension ladder, use the “4-to-1” rule: For every 4 feet of height, move the bottom of the ladder 1 foot away from the wall. A ladder is pitched at the proper, safe angle if you can grasp a rung at shoulder height.

- Place your ladder on solid footing. If there is a danger of the ladder moving while you work, tie it down. If there is a danger that the ladder will be hit, barricade it. If the feet of the ladder are not level, dig the ground out under one foot with the claw of a hammer rather than raise one foot with blocks.
- Never use an aluminum ladder in the vicinity of electrical lines and never use a ladder outdoors during inclement weather or on very windy days.
- Carry tools and materials in proper carrying devices and keep your hands free for climbing. When climbing, always face the ladder.

Scaffolding

- All scaffolding that is elevated 10 feet or more must be equipped with a safety railing. All scaffolds must be equipped with a toeboard to eliminate the possibility that tools or debris will be kicked or pushed onto people below. A scaffold must be designed to support four times the weight of the workers and the materials resting on it. Scaffolding components that are not designed to be compatible should not be mixed.
- Inspect all scaffolding each day before using it. Never use damaged or defective equipment and avoid rusted parts since their strength is unknown. When erecting scaffolding, provide adequate sills for the scaffold posts and use base plates. Use adjusting screws, not blocks, when on an uneven grade. Make sure to plumb and level scaffolding and do not force end braces when constructing the scaffolding.
- Many scaffolding accidents are caused by defective planking. Use only properly graded and inspected lumber for planking. Inspect planking daily for splits and knots, and remove defective or damaged planking.

Clean Work Site

- A clean work place is a safe work place. This refers to the neatness and good order of the construction site. Maintaining good housekeeping contributes to the efficiency of the worker and is important in preventing accidents.
- Position building materials and supplies in carefully laid out piles to allow adequate aisles and walkways. Clean up all rubbish and scrap materials on a daily basis. Do not permit blocks of wood, nails, bolts, empty cans, pipe, wire or other materials to accumulate on the work site. They interfere with work and can constitute a hazard. Keep tools and equipment that are not being used in chests, panels or tool boxes. This protects the tools and the workers.
- Never leave a work site unguarded unless all tools and materials have been properly secured.

Poisons and toxic substances

- The poisons and toxic substances that can be found most often on a work site are asbestos, lead oxides, solvents and animal feces. Special care must be taken when you come in contact with any of these substances or any unfamiliar substance.
- If you discover asbestos fiber being used as pipe, boiler or heating duct insulation, contact your supervisor immediately.

- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE ASBESTOS FIBER ON YOUR OWN.
- Scraping exterior woodwork, demolishing lead-painted walls and stripping old mill work are the principal ways that workers can be exposed to lead chips, dust and particles. Contact your supervisor immediately if you discover any lead-painted surfaces.
- Masks are the best protection against breathing germs that can be borne in dust containing animal feces (such as rodent droppings).

Emergency Medical Care

If someone is injured on the job, contact your supervisor immediately and summon any needed medical help. You also should use the supplies located in the first-aid kit to stabilize the injury as much as possible until medical help arrives. Your supervisor is trained in first-aid and will help any injured worker. Insurance forms necessary to obtain emergency medical care are located in every first-aid kit.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **A first aid kit is available in every construction supervisor’s truck.**
- **Fire extinguishers are available in every construction supervisor’s truck.**
- **A worksite safety plan binder is in every site supervisor’s truck.**
- **Please be aware of the location of the toilet.**
- **Protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, hard hats, etc.) is available.**
- **You have to read and acknowledge these safety rules prior to beginning work on a Habitat for Humanity construction site.**





**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Peninsula and
Greater Williamsburg

Today's Date: _____
Job Location: _____
Group Contact: _____ <i>(if applicable)</i>

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR MINORS (Page 1 of 2)

Please read carefully as this is a Legal Document that affects your Legal Rights

THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY (the "Release") is executed on the date below, by the undersigned volunteer (the "Volunteer") in favor of Habitat for Humanity Peninsula, Inc., a Virginia nonprofit corporation, its directors, employees, and agents (collectively, "Habitat"). The Volunteer desires to work as a volunteer for Habitat and engage in the activities related to being a volunteer.

I, the Volunteer, desire to work as a volunteer for one or more of the Released Parties and engage in the activities related to being a volunteer ("Activities"). I understand that my Activities may include but are not limited to the following: working in Habitat for Humanity offices or Habitat for Humanity ReStore operations; traveling to and from work sites; consuming food available or provided; constructing and rehabilitating residential buildings; and other construction-related activities.

I, the Volunteer, hereby freely, voluntarily and without duress execute this Release under the following terms:

Release and Waiver. I, the Volunteer, do hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless the Released Parties and their successors and assigns from any and all liability, claims and demands which I or my heirs, assigns, next of kin or legal representatives may have or which may hereinafter accrue with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death or property damage which arise or may hereafter arise from or is in any way related to my Activities with any of the Released Parties, whether caused wholly or in part by the simple negligence, fault or other misconduct, other than intentional or grossly negligent conduct, of any of the Released Parties or of other volunteers.

I understand and acknowledge that by this Release I knowingly assume the risk of injury, harm and loss associated with the Activities. I also understand that the Released Parties do not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, health or disability insurance in the event of injury, illness, death or property damage.

It is the policy of Habitat for Humanity that children under the age of 16 are not allowed on Habitat for Humanity worksites while construction is in progress. It is further the policy of Habitat for Humanity that, while minors between the ages of 16 and 18 may be allowed to participate in construction work, using power tools, excavation, demolition, working on rooftops and similar activities are not permitted for anyone under the age of 18.

Medical Treatment. I, the Volunteer, do hereby release and forever discharge the Released Parties from any claim or action whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid, treatment or service rendered in connection with my Activities with any of the Released Parties.

If the Volunteer is less than 18 years of age, the Volunteer and the parents having legal custody and/or the legal guardians of the Volunteer (the "Guardians") also hereby release and forever discharge the Released Parties from any claim whatsoever which arises or may hereafter arise on account of the decision by any representative or agent of the Released Parties to exercise the power to consent to medical or dental treatment.

Assumption of the Risk. I, the Volunteer, understand that my Activities may include work that may be hazardous to me, including, but not limited to, the following: construction; loading and unloading; travel to and from the work sites; and exposure to lead, asbestos, and mold, which may cause or worsen certain illnesses, especially if I do not wear protective equipment, am exposed for extended periods of time, or have a pre-existing immune system deficiency.

I also understand there is some inherent risk in consuming local foods and living in local accommodations in the city(ies) or country(ies) visited. I further understand I may be traveling to and from locations where there is a risk of terrorism, war, insurrection, criminal activities, inclement weather or other circumstances that could threaten my health or safety. I also understand that it is the policy of the Released Parties to not pay ransom or make any other payments to secure the release of hostages.

Parent/Guardian Initials _____



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Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR MINORS (Page 2 of 2)

I hereby expressly and specifically assume the risk of injury or harm in the Activities and release the Released Parties from all liability for any loss, cost, expense, injury, illness, death or property damage resulting directly or indirectly from the Activities.

Insurance. I, the Volunteer, understand that, except as otherwise agreed to by the Released Parties in writing, the Released Parties are under no obligation to provide, carry or maintain health, medical, travel, disability or other insurance coverage for any Volunteer. Each Volunteer is expected and encouraged to obtain his or her own health, medical, travel, disability or other insurance coverage.

Photographic Release. I, the Volunteer, do hereby grant and convey unto Habitat for Humanity International, Inc., all right, title and interest in any and all photographs and video or audio recordings of or including my image or voice, made by any of the Released Parties during my Activities with the Released Parties, including, but not limited to, the right to use such photographs or recordings for any purpose and to any royalties, proceeds or other benefits derived from them.

Other. I, the Volunteer, expressly agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the state where the Activities take place. I further agree that in the event any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining clauses or provisions of this Release, which shall continue to be enforceable. Further, a waiver of a right under this Release does not prevent the exercise of any other right.

To express my understanding of and agreement with this Release, I sign here with a witness.

VOLUNTEER:

Name (please print): _____ **Signature:** _____

Address, City, State: _____

Phone: (H) _____

Date of Birth: _____

PARENT/ GUARDIAN:

Name (please print): _____ **Signature:** _____

Address, City, State: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____

WITNESS:

Name (please print): _____ **Signature:** _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name: _____	Relationship: _____
Address, City, State: _____	
Phone: (H) _____	(C/W) _____ E-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Initials _____