

ENHANCING WORKPLACE SAFETY

BY DYLAN FULTON

Workplace safety is especially critical in our leading service line, where tasks frequently involve working at heights with potential exposure to hazardous chemicals and extreme temperatures. In order to meet these challenges and cultivate a culture of vigilance and accountability, Excel Modular Scaffold has implemented targeted safety programs aimed at reducing incidents and injuries. Two key campaigns, "Walk Wise" and "Stop-Work Obligation," have played a pivotal role in enhancing our safety culture and protecting our most valuable asset: our employees.

WALK WISE

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common causes of workplace injuries. At Excel, trends indicate that we are typically heavily focused on high-risk activities. Yet, our safety tracking indicated a struggle with basic/low-risk events, like walking at grade level.

One initiative to address this challenge is Excel's Walk-Thru Base Plate, a simple component that allows for the removal of the bottom scaffold wrap to allow for clear walkways in typically congested areas. This access/egress fix was also achieved without compromising the structural integrity of the scaffold structure.

Another is the institution of the "Walk Wise" campaign to encourage employees to remain vigilant and adopt proactive walking habits to eliminate hazards in travel paths. The initiative focuses on basic, yet often overlooked, safety practices, including:

- **CLEAR PATH MANAGEMENT:** Employees regularly check and clear their walking paths of hoses, piping, tools, and other obstructions.
- **REGULAR HAZARD ASSESSMENTS:** Crews review work areas at the start of the day and following breaks, identifying and mitigating any slip or trip hazards.
- **PROPER LIGHTING:** Teams ensure walkways and workspaces are well-lit to minimize risks associated with poor visibility.

- **TEAM RECOGNITION:** Employees who successfully prevent hazards or develop practical solutions to improve walking/working surfaces are recognized and celebrated for their contributions.

Together, the implementation of the Walk-Thru Base Plate and the "Walk Wise" campaign has reshaped how we address slip, trip, and fall hazards at Excel. By focusing on these foundational safety measures, we've improved worksite efficiency while also strengthening a culture of proactive awareness and accountability.

STOP-WORK OBLIGATION

One of Excel's most impactful safety advancements is the rebranding of "Stop Work Authority" into a clear and proactive "Stop Work Obligation." This shift reframes safety as both a right and a responsibility shared by every employee. The policy outlines specific situations when work must stop, such as unclear procedures or inadequate training, and reinforces that speaking up is a sign of strength.

Employees are encouraged to pause work whenever they notice unsafe conditions, without fear of judgment or consequences. Excel recognizes those who take action through on-site praise, company newsletter features, and social media highlights. This positive reinforcement supports a stronger culture of accountability where safety always comes first.



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A SAFER, STRONGER WORK ENVIRONMENT

The combination of the Walk Wise and Stop-Work Obligation campaigns creates a comprehensive safety framework that protects employees and boosts morale and teamwork. These safety programs go beyond compliance; they empower our workforce to actively engage in safety efforts at all levels. Excel Modular Scaffold exemplifies what it means to place human well-being at the core of industrial operations through continuous improvement and a commitment to accountability.

