

# Toolbox Talk



## Health and safety at Work Act

Part 1 of the Health and Safety at Work Act relates to health, safety and welfare at work. It applies to every work activity.

Health and Safety legislation generally does not apply to volunteers, but restoration groups have a **duty of care** to protect volunteers alongside members of the public and others.

The Health and Safety at Work Act places duties on employers (Trustees/Committee, Project Managers, Team Leaders & Site Foreman) to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees (volunteers, role specific volunteers), more specifically:

- Safe plant and systems of work.
- Safe materials and substances, their use, handling, storage and transport.
- A safe place of work, including access to and egress from.
- A safe working environment with adequate facilities and arrangements for welfare.
- Sufficient and suitable information, instruction, training and supervision.



### Employees (volunteers) duties:

- Take care of themselves or others who may be affected by their actions.
- Co-operate with their employer.
- Not to interfere or misuse anything provided.
- Use everything in accordance with instructions.
- Report anything thought to be dangerous.

The Health and Safety at Work Act is an enabling act which allows the Government to make Health and Safety regulations that become part of the law. The requirements of the Act are very general and the regulations introduce specific requirements. For instance Work at Height Regulations control any working at height.

In addition to regulations, Approved Codes of Practice and Health and Safety Executive Guidance Notes support the regulations and give practical advice on complying with regulations.