

# Safety signs on site

## Student worksheet

Recognise four common sign types, explain what they mean and decide how to act safely on a construction site.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Course or group \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 1 Understand the purpose

### 1 Why are safety signs used on construction sites?

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### 2 What makes a safety sign clear and easy to understand?

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## Watch the video

Notice the hazards, the signs used and the actions people must take. Record examples and any questions to discuss with your tutor.

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Think about colour, shape, symbols, visibility and positioning.

Signs support safe working practices. They do not remove a hazard or replace other safety controls.

## Activity 2 Recognise and apply

Use the guide, then tick the sign types you think apply to each workplace scenario. More than one may be relevant. Be ready to explain your choices in the tutor-led discussion.

| Sign type      | Description                                                 | Colour & Shape                                                                      | Meaning and example                                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prohibition    | Red circle and diagonal bar; white background, black symbol |    | An action you must not take.<br>Example: no smoking.              |
| Mandatory      | Blue circle with a white symbol                             |    | An action you must take.<br>Example: wear safety footwear.        |
| Warning        | Yellow triangle with a black border and symbol              |   | A hazard or danger to be aware of.<br>Example: danger of falling. |
| Safe condition | Green square or rectangle with a white symbol               |  | A safe route or emergency facility.<br>Example: first aid point.  |

These are four common categories. Fire equipment signs are a separate category.

Further guidance: HSE Safety signs • [hse.gov.uk/workplace-health/signs.htm](https://hse.gov.uk/workplace-health/signs.htm)

### Safety signs quiz – what do you think?

| Workplace scenario                        | Prohibition              | Mandatory                | Warning                  | Safe condition           |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Operating a planer                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Working close to a deep trench         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Working with acids                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Fire assembly point                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. In the event of a fire do not use lift | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Eye wash station                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Workplace scenario                 | Prohibition              | Mandatory                | Warning                  | Safe condition           |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. No mobile phones                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Grinding metal                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. First aid                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Overhead cables                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Unauthorised access prohibited | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. CCTV in operation              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Activity 3 Understand responsibilities

In your own words write up what you think are the responsibilities for employers and employees with respect to safety signs following the discussion.

### Employers

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### Employees

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## Activity 4 What must you do!

Write three actions you will take when you see safety signs on site.

1

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2

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3

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