

Critical Thinking for Safety

By regularly applying these prompts, employees can thoroughly consider safety in all activities, reducing the risk of accidents and injuries.



Assess the situation

- » What potential hazards can you identify in your current environment?
- » Are there any immediate dangers that need to be addressed?



Question assumptions

- » Have you verified the status of any equipment you are about to use (e.g., is it energized or de-energized)?
- » Are you sure all safety precautions are in place?



Gather information

- » What additional information do you need to understand the situation fully?
- » Where can you obtain this information (e.g., manuals, colleagues, supervisors)?



Plan your actions

- » What steps will you take to ensure safety?
- » What could go wrong, and how will you mitigate those risks?
- » Do you have an appropriate contingency plan?



Consult with others

- » Have you discussed potential hazards with your team?
- » Have you sought input from colleagues or supervisors for additional perspective or verification?



Evaluate your tools and equipment

- » Are you using the correct tools for the task at hand?
- » Is your equipment in good working condition and properly maintained?



Think ahead

- » What do you expect to happen next in your task?
- » Are you prepared for any unexpected events?



Reflect on previous experiences

- » What lessons have you learned from past incidents?
- » How can those lessons be applied to the current situation?



Prioritize safety

- » Are you considering safety above all other objectives (e.g., speed, convenience)?
- » Are you following all safety guidelines and protocols?



Take a break if needed

- » Are you feeling fatigued or stressed?
- » Do you need to take a break to ensure you remain focused and aware?



Maintain situational awareness

- » Are there any changes in your surroundings that could introduce new hazards?
- » Have any conditions changed since your last assessment?



Ensure communication

- » Are you maintaining clear and consistent communication with your team?
- » Have you notified others of any risks or safety procedures?



Reevaluate your actions

- » After taking action, assess whether it was effective.
- » Did your actions adhere to safety procedures and standards?

