

# SPIRITUALITY AND SAFETY

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*Talk*; given by a local elder known for safe work habits as outlined in the November 2, 2016, letter to all bodies of elders. This talk will be included in the initial maintenance training visit scheduled by the assigned maintenance trainer. Reinforces the profound respect for life that all true Christians possess, as well as the fact that safety on theocratic projects is of primary importance and will not be compromised for any reason. Includes a recorded talk by a member of the U.S. Branch Committee. TO BE COVERED IN 20 MINUTES.

## **LIFE IS A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM JEHOVAH** (3 MINS.)

Life-saving truths from the Bible are dispensed at each Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

These buildings are dedicated to Jehovah, the source of life (Ps 36:9)

Because of that fact, we are willing to give our precious time to maintain our Kingdom Hall

Human life is a precious possession

Humans are uniquely equipped to love, learn, and teach **[READ PSALM 139:14]**

When human life is lost, it cannot be restored by any human means

If our life is in danger, we do everything we can within reason to preserve it

Many will even call out for superhuman aid when under great distress

The mariners with Jonah did so when caught in a powerful storm at sea (Jon 1:4-6, 14)

They were willing to do their part in an attempt to save their lives (Jon 1:5)

Ultimately, they were asking for a miracle (Jon 1:14)

We have good reason to depend on the "source of life", Jehovah, for a measure of protection

However, it is just as important to be proactive in protecting ourselves and our brothers and sisters

## **OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID BLOODGUILT** (4 MINS.)

Jehovah—the Giver of life—requires more of us than simply following self-protective instincts

We must be obedient to published theocratic standards

Ancient Israelites received divine standards to ensure safety **[READ DEUTERONOMY 22:8]**

Ignoring these standards resulted in bloodguilt (*it-1* p.346 Bloodguilt)

We have received published theocratic standards to ensure safety, helping us to avoid bloodguilt

*[Encourage the audience to read from their personal copy of the DC-82 under the section "STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT"]*

*Working Together Safely* (DC-82) states: "[We] will not compromise safety to reduce costs, to meet deadlines, or to achieve any other goals."

Christians cannot preach with the goal of saving lives while also showing disrespect for life when working at the Kingdom Hall in an unsafe manner

Those who are approved to coordinate work will never:

Ask volunteers to perform work in a manner that is unsafe

Impose deadlines that cannot be met without sacrificing safe work practices

Allow an environment of unsafe work habits

We could all bear a measure of bloodguilt if we were to willingly compromise safety

## **WORLDWIDE SAFETY STANDARDS** (4 MIN)

To qualify for this work, you have received, read, and adopted the standards published in the *Working Together Safely* (DC-82) document

There is great benefit in learning from and applying these standards (Isa 48:17)

*[Speaker reviews 2 or 3 standards deserving special attention at this Kingdom Hall, inviting audience to read directly from their personal copy of the DC-82]*

The ultimate goal of this Safety program is an accident-free work environment

To help reach this goal, there are four critical reminders to observe:

**1. Do not ignore safety violations**

Never walk past an unsafe condition or someone performing an unsafe act without correcting it. If you cannot correct it, report it immediately to an overseer

**2. Participate in safety reminder meetings before performing work each day or before changing tasks**

It is at these meetings you will discuss potential job hazards pertaining to your task and can plan for safe work practices

**3. Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for your job**

You are encouraged to obtain your own personal hard hat and other safety equipment if required by your assigned work

**4. Follow all published safety standards**

Keep a printed or digital copy for regular reference while working

As evidence of branch office's commitment to an accident-free work environment and desire to be in harmony with worldwide safety standards, a special recorded talk has been prepared by a member of the U.S. Branch Committee to be shown at this meeting

**PLAY VIDEO 02 – *Spirituality and Safety* (8 MINS.)****DEMONSTRATING APPRECIATION FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE (1 MIN.)**

In order to qualify for this work, you personally committed to the following statement in *Working Together Safely* (DC-82) under "STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT":

*[Encourage the audience to read from their personal copy of the DC-82 under the section "STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT"]*

*"I understand that all construction sites have potential hazards. I also understand that God's Word says that safety and respect for life must be taken very seriously. (Ex. 21:33, 34; Num. 35:22-25; Deut. 22:8)*

*Therefore, for the protection of myself and others, I am fully committed to working safely."*

True Christians prove true to any commitments they make (Mt 5:37)

Our living up to this commitment demonstrates our appreciation for Jehovah's precious gift of life

[Introduce the next part: *Why Is Maintenance Important?*]