

Stopping unsafe acts

Brief

Interrupt unsafe acts to prevent their chain effects

One person's actions can affect other persons and have far-reaching consequences. The same is true for safety. This is why it is important to be not just responsible for your own actions, but also mindful of any actions from your colleagues that may jeopardise safety.

The safety tools and procedures that your team uses may not guarantee complete safety. Actions and behaviours from everyone also affect your team's safety performance. Hence, being alert for unsafe acts is crucial. Interrupting them allows you to prevent potential dangers and also serves as an opportunity for guidance, support, and knowledge-sharing.

When you stop unsafe acts, you promote a strong safety culture where everyone cares and feels responsible for each other's welfare.



REMEMBER

Stopping unsafe acts lets you interrupt a chain of negative effects. It helps you prevent potential dangers and show your team that you are reliable and responsible.

Barriers to stopping unsafe acts

Here are some of the most common reasons why some people are reluctant to stop unsafe acts:

- Defensive reaction from the person being interrupted
- Power distance
- Low situational awareness
- Lack of knowledge about how to properly stop unsafe acts



STOP: See, Talk, Offer, and Persuade

An effective way to make you confident to stop unsafe acts and make the interruption acceptable to the person involved is to **STOP** or **See, Talk, Offer, and Persuade**. This includes behaviours and skills such as respect, corrective feedback, open-mindedness, and assertiveness.

The actions in STOP reflect Intervention, one of the five key safety behaviours known as Safety I's.

'STOP' ACTIONS

See	Observe your surroundings and be alert towards any signs of danger. Exercise your situational awareness. Be on the lookout for any action that can result in an accident.
Talk	Speak up. Stop the person and explain why you did so. To avoid getting a defensive or angry reaction, be respectful and emphasise your good intentions rather than focus on the person's mistake. Practise no blame culture.
Offer	Suggest a safer way to do the job and explain how this can be good for all parties.
Persuade	Be assertive and encourage the person to do the safer alternative and apply it on future jobs.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

See	During a loading operation at the main deck, the OS saw the AB crossing the loading area while a suspended cargo was directly above him. He figured that this was unsafe.
Talk	<p>The OS quickly approached the AB and took him to the side.</p> <p>OS: I'm sorry AB, but I had to interrupt you. I think you were not in a safe position there — you were directly under a suspended cargo. The cargo could have fallen on you or hit you. Also, others might have followed you and cross the loading area, too.</p>
Offer	OS: We can monitor the crane's movement first to assess when it is safe to cross. This way, we can prevent accidents and serve as good examples to our colleagues.
Persuade	<p>OS: We should be aware of our surroundings at all times and interrupt any potentially dangerous act. We can never tell when things can go wrong: for instance, if the cargo falls or the crane fails.</p> <p>Anyway, thanks for listening. Please feel free to interrupt me too if you notice any unsafe acts from me.</p>