



Blocking

Have you seen a crucial block lately? We're not talking about football; we're talking about blocking as it relates to safety and your work area. We're talking about blocking important elements of the workplace from access.

One of the most common things noted during safety inspections are blocking violations. What types of things should not be blocked? Below is a partial list of common items in most work areas, however, there can certainly be others:

- Emergency Exits
- Eyewash stations and showers
- Electrical panels
- Emergency Shut Down activators
- Electrical disconnects
- Fire extinguishers
- Pedestrian/ vehicle aisles and exits
- Emergency equipment

How serious is this issue? According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics locked and/or blocked exits have been factors in many deaths and injuries throughout industry.

The good news is that blocking is easy to identify and fix. Consider painting zones around these areas and/or installing signs to inform people they can't be blocked. Conduct regular inspections and place emphasis keeping safety related equipment and escape routes free of any blockage.

Take a look around your work area today when you head out. See if there is clear access to the electrical panels, fire extinguishers, safety equipment and exits. Let your Supervisor know if something is blocking access so the issue can be addressed.



