

# Do You Know Your Basic S

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Now is the time to review your shipboard basic safety standards as defined in Chapter C1 of OPNAVINST. 5100.19D, the NAVOSH Program Manual for Forces Afloat. The Navy's general shipboard environment is among the most hazardous that exist because of the presence of hazardous materials, variety of equipment, and ordnance. The danger is compounded by the fact that a ship is a constantly moving platform and subject to weather conditions and to the dangers of collision and grounding. Any number of mishaps could create a chain of events which ultimately might result in a major catastrophe. It is for this reason that situational awareness and sound work habits must be followed daily and to the letter to prevent injury and equipment damage.

Such compliance might just save your life. Following are some safety standards that should be routine.

📖 Locate and remember all exits from working and living spaces you frequent.

📖 Know where life jackets and EEBDs are stored in or near your working and living spaces.

📖 Use appropriate material to secure for sea all movable objects in your spaces.



# Safety Standards?



📖 Always wear clothing that snugly fits your body. Wear short, rolled-up sleeves when operating rotating industrial machinery.

📖 Always go up or down a ladder with one hand, but preferably both hands, on the ladder rail. Never slide down ladder rails.

📖 Know the emergency shut-down procedures for all equipment you use.

📖 Be sure exits are never blocked with equipment, boxes, or any other obstruction.

📖 Be sure ventilation ducts are always unobstructed, and never alter ducts or diffusers without permission from the chain of command.

📖 Remember that horseplay is prohibited aboard ship.

📖 Always remove rings, watches, key rings, and other items that could get entangled or caught on projections, or might be a shock hazard if worn when working with electrical or electronic equipment.

📖 Always wear approved safety shoes when required by the job.

📖 Walk, don't run in passageways.

📖 Always be cautious when nearing a blind corner.

📖 Know the location of all lifeboat and life-raft stations and how to get to them from the living and working spaces you frequent.

📖 Know the location of all fire stations and firefighting equipment in or near the living and working spaces you frequent.



Photo by Matthew J. Thomas

Always know the whereabouts of shipmates in the space where you are working, especially if they are working in tanks, voids or other similarly restricted-movement or dangerous areas.

Smoke only in designated areas.

Only authorized personnel shall use special equipment and, then, only in the prescribed manner.

Wear sunglasses only for their intended purpose and only wear them topside; do not wear them as protective equipment for firewatch, welding, etc.

If you pass through a watertight door designated to be closed during normal operations, always properly close and dog it.

Know where all life rings, watermarkers, and flares designated for use during man-over-board emergencies are located.



Always know where emergency equipment like EEBDs are stowed in your work or living spaces. Be sure such gear has not gone beyond its expiration date and all applicable PMS is current.

Observe all personal protective-equipment requirements.

Promptly inform senior personnel responsible for a given space or equipment of all unsafe conditions discovered.

Never lean against lifelines.

Never dismantle or remove any lifeline, or hang or secure any weight or another line to a lifeline—except as authorized by the commanding officer.

Use temporary lifelines when possible.

Keep decks free of obstacles and materials causing slippery conditions, particularly in work areas. Post conspicuous warning signs in slippery areas. Always install non-skid in machinery-work areas, including the tops and bottoms of all ladders, on both sides of doors and arches with high coamings and which are used for continuous traffic, and on both sides of crew messing space doors.

Provide temporary protection by guardrails or chains—suitably supported by stanchions or pads—when opening normally-closed accesses in bulkheads or decks.

Never straddle or step over lines, wire, and chains that are under tension.

After opening—but before passing through—a watertight hatch, scuttle, or manhole cover, be sure the hatch brace-pins and safety pawls, and scuttle or manhole covers are positively locked.

Adding to the day-to-day challenges of shipboard life are the dangers inherent to the high-tempo industrial environment of a shipyard. The need for situational awareness is compounded in such surroundings.

Working smartly includes using the right tools for the job, including all appropriate personal-protective equipment. PPE or procedural shortcuts inevitably result in injury and improperly completed work.

📖 Wear a life-jacket topside where the potential exists of falling, slipping, being thrown, or carried into the water.

📖 Never lock escape scuttles so they cannot be opened from the inside.

📖 Never dismantle any permanent lifeline system without permission of the commanding officer and without providing temporary lifelines.

📖 Never dismantle or remove any inclined or vertical ladder without permission of the commanding officer. Always secure such areas with temporary lifelines, and be sure to post a warning sign.

📖 Never operate machinery or equipment with defective safety devices or missing machine guards without permission of the commanding officer.

📖 Never tamper with or render ineffective any safety device, interlock, ground strap, or similar devices designed to protect equipment operators or the equipment without approval of the commanding officer.

📖 Open or close electrical switches and pipe valves only when authorized to do so.

📖 Be sure low overheads above inclined ladders (72 inches) and passageways (75 inches) and obstructions in passageways are padded, and hazardous areas around machinery and

Never remove any temporary lifelines or safety chains, whether they're in use or just being stowed. Also be sure they are in good material condition and all necessary hardware is available to properly use them.



Navy Photo by PH2 George DelMoral

elevators, and trip hazards, are color-coded to warn people of the danger areas.

📖 Never open or enter a tank, void, or man-hole before obtaining permission from the gas-free engineer.

📖 When working in a tank or void, have a safety line attached, wear proper protective equipment, and have a second person tending the safety line outside the tank or void.

📖 Only wear portable stereo earphones while in your rack, in a berthing space, or in authorized ship spaces.

📖 Never tamper with any damage-control fittings or equipment. ☹️

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