ACTIVITIES

SAFETY SIGNS



The "fatal four" of all incidents on construction sites make up 58% of all fatalities. The "fatal four" include: falls, being caught between objects, electrocution and being struck by an object. It is necessary to improve safety on workplaces in order to avoid these common incidents with suitable prevention measures. Construction sites inevitably pose many safety risks, but the fatal four are responsible for most incidents.

Safety signs must be used whenever a hazard or danger cannot be avoided adequately or reduced in another way. Before installing safety signs an employer should examine whether the hazard can be avoided or reduced by collective precautions (precautions that protect everybody) or safer ways of doing the work.

A signboard is a sign that provides information or instructions using a combination of shapes, colours and symbols but excludes information in writing. The symbols or pictograms on a signboard are intended to be understood, independently of the language ability of the worker viewing it.

Some colours and shapes are conventionally used on safety signboards:

for prohibition	\bigcirc	Discs for prohibitions and instructions
for caution	\triangle	Triangles for warnings
for positive action		Squares and rectangles for emergency
for mandatory actions		and information signs.
	for prohibition for caution for positive action for mandatory actions	for caution \triangle for positive action

- **Prohibition signs** are quite easy to understand.
- 1 Match each of the following signs, given in jumbled order, with its explanation.



No smoking



No unauthorized entry



No pedestrian access



Do not extinguish with water



Do not touch



Not drinking water

- **FIRE FIGHTING AND RESCUE SIGNS** are essential in case of fire or potential fire.
- 2 Match each of the following signs, given in jumbled order, with its explanation.



Fire hose reel



Emergency exit



Fire extinguisher



First Aid box



Extinguisher location boards



Direction to take

3 Talk to your partner and in turns explain the meaning of the symbols with complete sentences.

E.g.: This symbol tells you where the fire hose reel is. \longrightarrow e.

MANDATORY SIGNS are signs which give employers information about what they have to do.



Mandatory goggles



Protective gloves required



Mandatory safety helmet



Protective clothing required



Mandatory ear protection



Face shield required



Respirators required



Wear safety harness



Protective footwear required

4 \(\times\) Look back at the symbols for a minute and then cover their explanations. In turns try to explain to your partner what each symbol means.

WARNING SIGNS warn workers against potentially risky places, materials and situations.



Danger high voltage



Halt! Emergency stop



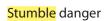
Suspended loads



Operations end



Inflammable substances





Operations start

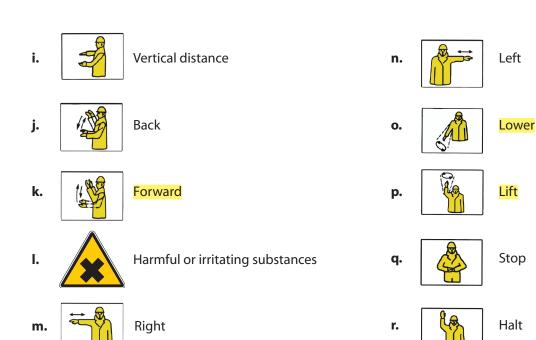


Sudden drop

drop: caduta to extinguish: spegnere extinguisher location board: indicatore del mezzo di estinzione face shield: protezione del viso fire hose reel: lancia antincendio

gloves: guanti goggles: occhiali (di protezione) harness: imbragatura helmet: casco load: carico mandatory: obbligatorio

pedestrian: pedone sign: cartello stumble: inciampo warning: avvertimento



40

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

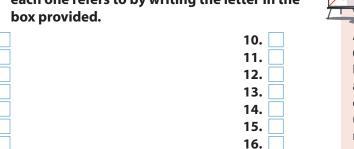
6.

7.

8.

9.

5 Listen to the recordings and say which symbols each one refers to by writing the letter in the box provided.





Scaffold-related accidents

An estimated 2.3 million construction workers, or 65% of the construction industry, work on scaffolds. Protecting these workers from scaffold-related accidents may prevent some of the 4,500 injuries and over 60 deaths every year – Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS), 2003 and 2004 data for the private sector. In a recent BLS study, 72% of workers injured in scaffold accidents attributed the accident to either the planking or the support giving way, or to the employee slipping or being struck by a falling object.



17.

18.

forward: avanti to lower: abbassare to lift: sollevare