



Safety Leadership Talk

TITLE:

**Are We Focusing on the 20%
That Creates 80% of Our Risk?**

September 2026



PROTECT PEOPLE

Send workers
home safe.



DRIVE PERFORMANCE

Stronger systems.
Better results.



BUILD EXCELLENCE

Build a company
you're proud of.



CREATE LASTING IMPACT

A legacy of safety,
care and integrity.

ONE SOLUTION TO KEEP YOUR PEOPLE SAFE
SO YOU CAN GROW AN **EXCELLENT** BUSINESS.



SAFETY LEADERSHIP TALK: Are We Focusing on the 20% That Creates 80% of Our Risk?

Intended Audience: Management, Supervisors, Safety, HR

Time Required: 15 minutes

Safety can feel overwhelming. There are regulations, customer requirements, inspections, training, paperwork and dozens of things competing for our attention. But **more activity doesn't necessarily mean less risk.**

In most businesses, a relatively small number of tasks create the majority of our potential for serious injury or loss. These are our **critical tasks.**

For a roofing or mechanical contractor, they may include working at heights, hoisting and rigging, confined spaces, energized equipment, hot work, mobile equipment or heavy material handling. The specific list depends on our work.

Ask the Team: What are the 3–5 things we do that could seriously hurt or kill someone?

For each one, can we confidently say:

- Have we properly assessed the hazards?
- Do we have a current written Safe Work Procedure?
- Have the people doing the work been properly trained and can they apply that training?
- Do our supervisors regularly observe the work and verify the standard is actually being followed?
- When equipment, processes, legislation or our work changes—or we have an incident or near miss—do we review the procedure?

If we can't confidently answer **yes**, that's where our attention should go.

The Leadership Principle: We don't need to treat every safety issue as though it carries the same risk.

The greatest risks deserve the greatest attention. If we identify our critical tasks, establish clear standards, train our people and consistently verify those standards in the field, we can dramatically improve safety without creating unnecessary work.

Leadership Action: Before we finish, let's identify one thing:



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ACTION - What is one improvement we will make?

Task: _____

Improvement: _____

Responsible: _____

Due date: _____