



Weekly Safety Briefings

Week 43 – Monday, October 20 – Friday, October 24, 2025

AI & Automation in the Workplace

Introduction

This week we will discuss the growing role of AI and automation in the workplace. While these tools can reduce risks and improve efficiency, they also introduce new hazards and require us to stay engaged, adaptable, and thoughtful. Technology is advancing quickly—but safety remains a human responsibility.

Monday – Understanding the Technology

AI and automation show up in many ways: robotics on production lines, automated vehicles in warehouses, or software that predicts maintenance needs. These systems are only as safe as the people who design, operate, and monitor them. Take time to learn what the technology around you does, how it behaves, and where the risks may lie. Awareness of the system's strengths—and its limits—sets the foundation for safe interaction.

Tuesday – Physical Safety Around Automated Equipment

Automated machinery can move faster, heavier, or with more precision than people. That makes it powerful, but also dangerous if we step into the wrong place at the wrong time. Always follow safeguards such as barriers, light curtains, and lockout/tagout rules. Ask yourself: *Would I enter this area if I knew the system could start without warning?* Respecting zones and procedures prevents serious injury.

Wednesday – Cybersecurity & Safety

Many automated systems connect to networks. That makes them efficient—but also vulnerable. A cyberattack could disable safeguards or create unsafe conditions. Even something as small as a software glitch could trigger unexpected machine behavior. Protecting logins, reporting irregularities, and treating “digital safety” as part of physical safety ensures both people and technology stay secure.

Thursday – Human + Machine Collaboration

The goal of automation isn't to replace us—it's to partner with us. But there's a risk of over-trusting systems or tuning out. If an AI recommends an action that doesn't seem right, pause and question it. Remember: the machine doesn't take responsibility—you do. Safe workplaces rely on people who stay engaged, even when technology is doing part of the job.

Friday – Staying Future-Ready

New technologies are arriving faster than ever. Staying safe means being a lifelong learner: attending training, asking questions, and keeping an open mind. Think about how today's tools looked unthinkable ten years ago—and imagine what may come next. How can you prepare yourself to work safely with tomorrow's systems? Future-ready teams are safer, stronger, and more resilient.