

How to Be Prepared by Dennis Belcher

You've read about safety and you've adopted safe practices in your workshop. You're collecting the dust, wearing your faceshield, keeping your head out of the danger zone, and avoiding cowboy stunts with large, irregular, and cracked chunks of wood. But by the very nature of what we do, accidents will happen. Here's a quiz that's designed to prepare you in advance, first by making you aware of some less-obvious things you can do to reduce your risks, and second, by increasing your awareness of what needs to happen after an accident occurs.

The challenge to you is to make a copy of the quiz, take it to your workshop, and complete each question. Take corrective action on those items you realize need to be improved. Bad habits can be changed, but only if we stop to consider the things we do that may be unsafe, and strengthen the safety practices we've learned.

- The nearest phone to use in an emergency is _____.
- Nearest hospital approved by my insurance carrier is _____.
- Nearest prompt-care facility approved by my insurance carrier is _____.
- Ambulance service closest to my home is _____. They are _____ minutes away.
- I summon an ambulance by calling _____.
- If I need help in the shop from my spouse or neighbor, I call _____.
- My shop fire extinguisher is located _____.
- The charge of my fire extinguisher was last checked on _____.
- I regard my dust collection system as inadequate adequate good superb.
- I consistently wear hearing protection in my shop yes no.
- The electrical service/supply in my shop is inadequate adequate.
- My plan if I develop an allergic reaction to a wood species is _____.
- I have a faceshield yes no.
- I wear a faceshield or safety glasses/goggles when I turn never sometimes always.
- I wear a dust mask or dust helmet when I turn yes no.
- I consistently use properly sized tools for each project. Large tools for larger pieces, small tools for small projects never sometimes always.
- I have reviewed the near-accidents I have experienced on each machine that I own yes no.
- I know and stay out of the "line of fire" for my lathe yes no.
- I sit outside the line of fire when watching a demonstration yes no.
- I have a safety stop for my lathe that is out of the line of fire yes no.
- I use the tailstock when roughing out never sometimes always.
- I use the tailstock when turning out-of-round pieces never sometimes always.
- The tool in my shop that I most need to improve/change/review my work habits from a safety standpoint is _____.
- I use a safety shield to protect spectators when doing a demonstration yes no.
- I clean and organize my shop regularly yes no.
- The woodturning tool that I am most afraid of is _____.
- I need to change my use of _____ to improve safe work habits.
- My body clock makes _____ the most dangerous time of the day to work with power tools.
- The one thing that I should do to improve the safety of my shop is _____.