

CHADWICK ROBOTICS SAFETY

VIDEO 2012-2013

When it comes to creating a new Robotics team, the most important thing is safety. Before you start learning about the mechanical skills required to construct robots, common safety should be firmly established within the Robotics team. Keeping everyone safe at all times should remain a top priority, regardless if a Robotics program is new or old, which is why we chose to create a video on safety.

In the video, we explained some key components to Robotics safety:

Keep horseplay to a minimum on the new Sack Attack competition fields. The reason for this is that there are many beanbags in this year's competition, and these beanbags can easily harm robotics members if thrown at high velocities and at certain areas on the body. In addition, these beanbags are known to split open and cascade tiny plastic balls everywhere, causing unwanted accidents such as tripping or choking. It is very tempting to throw sacks around the room, but it is not advised for safety.

Make sure that people near active fields are wearing proper eye protection. Robots are known to discharge elastic bands or other loose metals sometimes (intentionally or accidentally), so it is always advised to protect the eyes and other vulnerable areas when robots are in use.

When cutting metal, make sure that you are using proper protection and are using the right tool for the right job. Visors are necessary to prevent unwanted shards of metal from entering eyeballs. You may not be able to see these tiny shards, but they are known to embed themselves in eyes if the user does not wear eye protection. In addition, you could harm your ears if the machine you are using is too loud and you are using it for an extended period of time, so earmuffs are recommended. Make sure that the metal you are cutting is VEX approved and the machine is supposed to cut it that way!

When taking robots off of high shelves, make sure that you are prepared for it and always have a buddy around to help you.

When you pick up robots (or heavy items in general), you should take a knee and pick it up that way, rather than bending down and using your back. It's bad for your back!

Sometimes when you are building robots, little nuts and pieces fall onto the floor. Make sure you pick them up as soon as possible! Not only does it keep the robotics room free of clutter, but it prevents unnecessary accidents when people step and slip on them.

When disposing of batteries, make sure that you do not throw them in the regular trash can. It is unsafe for the environment. Instead, collect them all in a container and give them to a company that collects used batteries. It's profitable and good for the environment!

There are many many more safety tips, but these are the ones that we felt are most used. Enjoy the video!