



Safety Focus of the Month

STOP

Take a moment before starting any work.

Each month we will highlight each letter of: **SIMPLE**. The safety team will be providing table tents to place around your offices.

KSS Story of the Month



Team Highlight: Travis North Maintenance section

Job: Complaint received about a tree in our ROW leaning into/damaging the fence of a stakeholder on RM 2222.

Keeping safety **SIMPLE** story:

1. Before planning work, a crew was sent to survey and assess the area (utilized Google Earth) and the
2. Supervisor communicated to resident and obtained permission to be inside the fence line.
3. On work start date, the assistant supervisor and crew held a morning play-of-the-day meeting to decide who would be completing the work.
4. The crew reviewed the JSA 552 (Brush and Chipper) guidance and discussed the windy conditions.

Once the crew was onsite and ready to work, the team identified hidden hazards and made the decision to **STOP** and take a time out. A powerline was in close proximity and due to the size of the tree limbs, if they fell, it could potentially cause harm to the team or damage the property.

The team discussed ways to make the work safer and smoother, given the hazards and their new plan was to:

- Make smaller cuts to the tree to prevent limbs larger limbs from causing damage.
- Have 1 person cut limbs and 2 spotters.
- Have 3 people on the side cutting limbs into smaller pieces and load into wheelbarrows.
- Haul the debris to the 10-yard truck outside the fence line and load by hand.

After the job was completed, they regrouped at the Cedar Park maintenance section. The crew recapped the job, discussed any concerns during the process, and the supervisor thanked the entire crew for their diligence and teamwork.

Resources

Use these TxDOT resources and tips to implement “Stop” on the job.

1

Stop. Speak. Act.

Can you just stop in the middle of the job/work?

- **Yes! Always good to take a time out!**

Everyone can and should stop, communicate the hazard, and act after assessing the situation. **Safety is Intentional!**

2

Stop and Reassess.

Reassessing past jobs is just as important as assessing the current situation. Ask your team:

- What went wrong?
- What went right?
- Can we improve next time?
- What steps should we take to improve?

3

Stop and Celebrate!

Don't forget to celebrate your team's wins, large or small!

Monthly Highlights

Congratulations to everyone for officially completing the first of many KSS Challenges!

We are impressed by the outstanding efforts and teamwork we saw over the course of the month as all of you participated in placing KSS resources around the offices.

The district safety team will be passing out items for your participation. [Be on the lookout!](#)

[Click here](#) to see each office's photos.