Stop Work Authority
• 3 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses were reported in 2013

• 4,405 workers died in 2013 because of work-related injuries

• These accidents MAY have been avoided if a worker had used Stop Work Authority (SWA)
SWA gives ALL workers the right to stop work that puts someone in imminent danger.
Imminent danger is any condition, activity, or practice in the workplace that could cause

1. Death or serious physical harm

2. Significant environmental harm
SWA is an administrative control

It is a tool you can use to protect yourself and your coworkers from dangerous job situations.
If you see a coworker doing something that could cause them to be **killed or seriously injured**, you must use your **SWA** to keep your coworker (and yourself!) **safe**.
Have you ever used your SWA? What was the result?
When you use your SWA, give constructive feedback

Explain why the job needs to be stopped and how to correct it.
Notify your supervisor or the designated competent person on the jobsite.
Managers (supervisors, foremen, competent workers, etc.) must support workers in using SWA
Workers must feel comfortable using their **SWA** without being afraid of **punishment**
If someone tells you to **stop work**, you need to stop the job **immediately**

Remember, your coworkers are trying to **help keep you safe**, not punish you.
Some situations where you should **use your SWA** include

- Working at heights **without fall protection**
- Performing hot work **near ignitable materials**
- LOTO **violations**
- Standing under a lifted load
Can you think of any *other scenarios* where you would need to use your SWA?
After work is stopped and your supervisor or the competent person on the jobsite has been notified, affected workers should talk about the situation and come to an agreement on the stop work action.
The **corrective actions** should be **documented**, then put into place
The affected area will be **reopened** for work by your supervisor or the designated competent worker.

All affected workers will be told what **corrective actions** were taken before work begins again.
All SWA interventions should be talked about at safety meetings.

You should go over what happened, why SWA was used, and how similar dangerous situations can be avoided.
Remember, when you think,

“I shouldn’t tell someone what to do”

or

“I’m sure they know what they’re doing, who am I to tell them to stop,”

you could be saving their life by speaking up and using your SWA