

Stop Work Authority

Unsafe acts and conditions may occur at anytime in the workplace, which could result in an injury or property damage. Recognizing and stopping unsafe acts or conditions is known as your **Stop Work Authority** (SWA), and is critical to ensure your safety, the safety of others, and the protection of property. As an employee of Northwestern, you have the authority and are expected to stop work, including contractor work, when you observe unsafe acts or conditions.

Below are some examples of situations that may require a stop-work action:

- The potential release of hazardous energy, such as steam or electricity
- Witnessing someone standing on the top rung of a self-supporting ladder, which is a fall hazard
- Inadequate personnel for the job (e.g., fire watch not present during welding activities)
- Change of scope of work that may introduce new hazards or require additional personnel or training
- Not having the right tool or equipment for the job
- Witnessing the misuse of a tool or equipment
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