

# **EMPLOYEE SAFETY POLICY**

## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY HOMES**

**Dear San Joaquin Valley Homes Employee;**

**This is your personal copy of San Joaquin Valley Homes' Employee Safety Policy explaining our Rules and Regulations, our Safety Procedures, and your rights under Workers' Compensation Insurance if injured on the job.**

**Please read this employee safety handout carefully and refer to it whenever you have a question. If a question is not answered in this handout or any issues need to be resolved, please ask the office for assistance.**

**A copy of the Company's Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy and Written Safety Program are available for review at our office.**

**Employees have the following rights under this program:**

- **To be advised of occupational safety and health hazards.**
- **To receive training on safe work practices and conditions.**
- **To receive the proper Personal Protective Equipment for the job.**
- **To make suggestions, request information, provide information on hazards all without fear of reprisal.**

**Employees have a duty to comply with the following requirements to make the workplace safe for themselves and all other persons around them:**

- **Never work on any piece of equipment or in an area they are not qualified for without first getting training and having the proper authorization.**
- **Know the Code of Safe Practices for their general work area.**
- **Know the Code of Safe Practices for their job task or equipment.**
- **Comply with safe work practices, safe work conditions and all Personal Protective Equipment requirements.**
- **Immediately report to Supervisor any unsafe condition or hazard.**
- **Follow all Federal, State, and Local Regulations.**

**It is our goal that you or another employee is never injured. However, if injured, we want you to have the best and immediate care. We also want to be sure that all of your other benefits are paid to you promptly without the need for any costly or time-consuming legal litigation. When litigation is involved the cost of insurance increases tremendously, affecting the growth of the Company and all the employees who work for it.**

**That is why all accidents must be reported immediately to your Supervisor. If there is a delay in reporting an accident, it impedes our ability to do our part. So, no matter how small an accident may be, even if you do not feel medical treatment is required, you must report it to your Supervisor.**

**In the event of an injury, an Employee Claim Form will be provided to you. Please complete the form as soon as possible so that we can make sure all benefits are received promptly.**

### **SAFETY POLICY**

**It is San Joaquin Valley Homes's policy that accident prevention shall be considered of primary importance in all phases of our operation and administration.**

**It is the intention of this Company and its top management to provide a safe and healthy working environment for all employees.**

**It is this Company's policy to ensure that all employees are using safe practices to operate equipment and complete tasks.**

Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Acts require that employers provide a safe and healthful work environment for all employees. San Joaquin Valley Homes has an obligation to our employees and ourselves to see that work is free of all foreseeable hazards.

In order to meet these obligations and responsibilities, every Supervisor must undertake the responsibility for ensuring that employees or other persons are not working in or creating unsafe conditions.

The goal of our Company is to be free of accidents, and that can be achieved by providing a safe and healthy work environment.

## **JOB ASSIGNMENT**

Each employee needs to know and understand the following:

- Before starting a job or task the employee should be trained on the hazards associated with their duties or equipment, the Personal Protective Equipment that is required, the hazards of any chemicals associated with their operation and emergency procedures for the job and the Company.
- No employee is expected to perform a job until that employee has been trained.
- No employee should perform a job that appears to be unsafe.
- Mechanical safeguards must be in place and can never be bypassed.
- Never work or fix any equipment that you are not authorized to work on.
- Never remove any guards during operations.
- While working on or cleaning equipment, perform Lockout/Tagout/Blockout procedures if exposed to live wires, moving parts or flying debris.
- Inspect your area and equipment prior to beginning work each day and report unsafe conditions immediately.
- Report all injuries no matter how slight to your Supervisor.

Employee Participation and Responsibility:

- Knowing your job and applying all safe work practices.
- Knowing hazards of your job and protecting yourself and all others from those hazards.
- Reporting and recommending the correction of safety hazards.
- Actively participating and cooperating in safety meetings.
- Complying with safety instructions.
- Using all required Personal Protective Equipment.
- Obeying all health and safety warning signs.
- Reporting of injuries immediately to a Supervisor.
- Using First Aid supplies when practical.

## **CODE OF SAFE PRACTICES**

- Follow all Company Safety Rules and Policies.
- Employees must report all unsafe conditions immediately to a Supervisor.
- No horseplay permitted.
- Clean worksite conditions must be maintained at all times.
- All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required by State and Federal Regulations must be worn.
- All guards required by State and Federal Regulations must be in place.
- Report all accidents immediately.
- Use Lockout/Tagout/Blockout procedures when required by State or Federal Regulations.
- Inspect equipment prior to each use.
- Only operate equipment that you have been trained or authorized to use.
- All electrical wiring shall be to Code and maintained in safe condition.
- Use proper lifting techniques.
- Only qualified personnel can perform maintenance services.
- Follow all manufacturers' guidelines.
- Do not operate under the influence of altering prescription drugs, illegal drugs and /or alcohol.
- Work shall be well planned and supervised.

## **GENERAL SAFETY RULES**

The following General Safety Rules and Procedures are preventative measures to be taken and observed by all personnel to reduce the risk of accidents occurring in the workplace. All employees should familiarize themselves with the Safety Rules that are Company Policy.

You are working for an organization that is sincere in its desire to conduct all of its operations in the safest possible manner. We at San Joaquin Valley Homes have made a commitment to our employees to provide them with the safest possible work environment. In turn, it is your responsibility, as our employee, to make a commitment to us to work as safely as possible. Compliance with the General Safety Rules listed below will assist us in achieving this objective. These rules are a minimum guideline for working safely. Your continued awareness and cooperation in safety is a vital part of your job. It is your duty to apply these generally accepted standards of safety.

1. Before starting on any job assignment, get a detailed description of the duties you are to perform from your Supervisor. Do not perform any work you consider potentially dangerous to your safety or health without first discussing with a Supervisor the safety procedures to follow to eliminate those dangers.
2. Wear appropriate clothing and safety equipment. Wear shoes/boots appropriate for the task. Safety shoes or boots may be required at your facility or jobsite including steel-toed boots. Wear safety glasses or goggles, safety gloves, fall protection harness and lanyard, ear protection, respiratory protection, head protection, face protection and protective clothing where such items are advised or mandatory. The Company will provide these items when required by law. If not, contact your Supervisor for instruction.
3. Safe work attire: No open-toed shoes permitted.
  - Foot protection - Safety shoes/boots when performing heavy work.
  - Body protection - No loose fitting or baggy clothing, jewelry, or any other attire that may present a hazard near equipment or machinery.
  - Long hair must be kept behind the neck and shoulders to prevent entanglement or vision impairment.
4. Whenever you are involved in an accident or incident that results in an injury or property damage, no matter how small, the accident must be reported to your Supervisor immediately. Get First Aid promptly.
5. Do not operate any equipment or machinery that, in your opinion, is not in safe condition.
6. Obey all Company Rules, Government Regulations, signs, markings, and instructions.
7. When lifting use proper lifting technique, warm-up, check the load for weight, bend your knees, back straight, grasp load firmly, be square to what you are lifting and never twist. Ask for help with any item when its weight or shape is difficult for one person to handle safely.
8. Don't horseplay. Horseplay and practical jokes frequently cause a serious injury and are not permitted while at work.
9. Do not distract or startle fellow workers while they are working.
10. Unnecessary noises, music, talking, and shouting which may take the attention of other employees away from their work is a safety hazard to you and others.
11. Always use approved and appropriate tools for the job.
12. Be aware of all operations, especially moving equipment or machinery.
13. Keep your work areas clean at all times.
14. No running.
15. Clean floor spills and trip hazards at the facility or job site immediately.

## **GENERAL OFFICE SAFETY RULES**

1. Know your job and follow instructions. Ask a Supervisor for assistance when needed.
2. Use good ergonomic principals that apply to your work area.
3. Know your emergency evacuation procedures.
4. If office equipment is malfunctioning turn equipment off and report the problem to a Supervisor.
5. Worn wiring, overloading of outlets, and defective equipment should be fixed prior to use.
6. Keep desk drawers and file cabinets closed to prevent tripping or striking.
7. When using duplicating machines, copy machines, addressing machines and/or paper cutters, use machines in a safe work manner to avoid hand injuries.
8. When lifting items, use proper lifting technique and also be sure not to lift beyond your capabilities.
9. Clear pathway of any trip hazards prior to lifting any material.
10. When ascending or descending any stairway or step, use handrails to give support and balance.
11. Walk in the office and do not run. Keep to the right when going through intersections in corridors.
12. Open all doors slowly.

13. Do not go into any room that is not properly lighted.
14. Do not place items in any hallway, aisle, passageway, or stairway.
15. Look for trip hazards like debris, pens, carpet, etc. that may present a trip hazard.
16. Report all unsafe equipment and broken furniture.
17. Report all electrical problems.
18. Do not perform work that you are not authorized to perform.
19. Wear required safety equipment for every area that you enter.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

### **Benefits Can Include:**

- Medical Care – Paid for by your employer to help you recover from an injury or illness caused by work.
- Temporary Disability Benefits – Payments if you lose wages because your injury prevents you from doing your usual job while recovering.
- Permanent Disability Benefits – Payments if you don't recover completely.
- Death Benefits – Payment to your spouse, children or other dependents if you die from a job injury or illness.

### **Benefits When You Need To Change Jobs:**

- Supplemental Job Displacement Benefit – A voucher to help pay for retraining or skill enhancement if you don't recover completely, your employer doesn't offer you work, and you don't return to work for your employer.

## **WHO ADMINISTERS THIS PROGRAM?**

Your employer and the insurance carrier administer this program. However, in carrying out their responsibilities, they are under the control of the division of Workers' Compensation, subject to the right of all parties to bring their unresolved disputes to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

## **WHO'S COVERED?**

Almost every employee is protected by Workers' Compensation; however, there are a few exceptions. People in business for themselves and unpaid volunteers may not be covered. Similar laws cover railroads, maritime, and federal employees.

## **WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU ARE INJURED?**

Because we are very concerned about your safety, we have established the following Company Policy/Program:

If you are injured on the job, you should do the following:

### **NOTIFY:**

1. Your immediate Supervisor at the job site or facility, or;
2. Our office in person or by calling (559) 732-2660 Monday- Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **THEN:**

1. Do not treat yourself. Even minor injuries need expert care. Prompt, quality, medical care is the best investment both you and the Company can make.
2. Your Supervisor or office will make arrangements for the medical attention you may need.

## **CAN MY REGULAR DOCTOR TREAT ME IF I GET HURT ON THE JOB?**

It depends on whether you notify the Company in writing, before you are injured – the name and address of your personal physician. This is called “predesignating” your personal physician. If you predesignate, you may see your personal physician right after you are injured.

**Note:** You can predesignate only if the Company offers a group health plan or group health insurance for medical conditions that are unrelated to work. If the Company does not offer this benefit, you do not have a right to predesignate.

## **AFTER YOU RETURN FROM THE DOCTOR:**

Call San Joaquin Valley Homes’s office to give the status of your condition and to give information to aid in completing your Accident/Injury Report. At that time it will be determined if a Workers’ Compensation claim needs to be filed for you.

## **TO FILE A WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIM**

We are very concerned about your safety and have established the following Company Policy and Procedure for you to follow in case you are injured at work.

It is very important that we know about all injuries immediately so we can make sure that you are properly cared for. The law helps us by requiring that we give you an Employee’s Claim Form as soon as we know that there has been an accident.

Our policy requires that you notify your Supervisor so that the required claim form (DWC 1) can be given to you within the one-day period required by the law. You must then return the claim form to us immediately or as soon as possible. If you are injured, please follow the instructions for reporting an injury and filling out the required forms.

Keep a copy of the form until an official copy is sent.

Please call the office with any questions.

## **BENEFITS & PAYMENTS**

The State Legislature sets all benefits. State Law determines the amount of payments and when and how they are paid. Only the State Legislature can change the amounts received.

Medical bills will be paid directly by the insurance company. If by mistake you receive a bill, please contact or send it to the office and it will be sent to the insurance carrier. If you are unable to work for more than 3 days, then compensation for lost time at work will be given unless otherwise specified by law. Approximately 2 weeks after reporting the injury, you should receive a compensation check every two weeks thereafter until the doctor has released you. If the doctor puts you on restrictive work and there is modified work available, you may be asked to return to work to perform modified work at your regular pay rate. At all times you must follow the doctors’ restrictions.

## **OTHER BENEFITS:**

Workers' Compensation is often confused with State Disability Insurance (SDI). There are many similarities but there are some important differences.

Workers' Compensation covers injuries that happen on the job. State Disability Insurance (SDI) covers off the job injuries or illness, and is paid for by the State Disability Insurance, not Workers' Compensation. State Disability Insurance is taken out of your paycheck every pay period as required by State Law. It is against the law and is fraud if an injury outside of work is reported as an injury that happened at work. Contact the office and notify your physician that you wish to comply with State Disability Insurance due to an injury outside of work. The office can help with any questions on State Disability Insurance (SDI).

## **EMPLOYEE SAFETY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM - WRITTEN WARNINGS**

Compliance with our Safety Policy is a requirement for employment with San Joaquin Valley Homes. Observation of an employee committing an unsafe act will result in a warning notice being issued. The office copy of the written warning will be retained in the employee's personnel folder. Each time a written warning is given, the employees' file will be reviewed for previous written warnings. The following schedule of progressive enforcement will be adhered to as noted below:

First Violation in 12 months	- Counseling and warning
Second Violation in 12 months	- Letter of reprimand/Warning
Third Violation in 12 months	- Suspension without pay
Fourth Violation in 12 months	- Discharge

All written warnings are to be signed by the employee being given the violation. If an employee refuses to sign, a witness is to be brought into the conference and witness the refusal and sign the warning as a witness to the refusal.

Failure to follow safety guidelines anytime while at work, or failure to stop any activity that may not be specified in the Company Safety Policy but deemed an unsafe act by Management, may be grounds for written violation and/or termination.

One time or repeat of the same serious safety violation that could cause death or serious injury may result in immediate termination bypassing the schedule of enforcement.

The Company tries to take every precaution possible to assure safety to its employees. These precautionary measures will prove worthless without your complete cooperation.

We remind you that the illegal use of drugs and/or intoxicating beverages is prohibited. You may be tested for the illegal use of drugs or alcohol if you are involved in an accident or incident at work that results in injury or property damage. Regardless of the legal status of marijuana, marijuana shall not be used during work hours and shall not be consumed before work if it impairs your work or the work of others.

The purpose of our Company's Disciplinary Policy is to help promote and ensure your safety on the job. Our Policy is not intended to punish employees, but is intended to help maintain a safe workplace for you and your coworkers.

**TRAINING AND AGREEMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY POLICY**

This will certify that I have received a copy of the Company Employee Handout and agree to comply with the Company Safety Policy, Rules and Guidelines. The Safety Policy, Rules, and Guidelines have been reviewed and I understand that I will be subject to them during the course of my employment with San Joaquin Valley Homes. I understand that a violation of the Safety Policy, Rules and Guidelines could endanger others or myself. I also understand that if I do not abide by these rules, I could be dismissed.

I certify that I will not perform any task that is unsafe.

I certify that I will receive training on any equipment or operation prior to starting the job task.

I certify that I have received all Personal Protective Equipment required to complete my task.

I certify that I have been trained on the chemicals at work and the location of the safety data sheets, if applicable.

I certify that I have been trained on emergency procedures.

I certify that in case I am injured while in the course of my work, I will report the injury to my Supervisor immediately and will obtain a Medical Treatment Authorization slip or verbal authorization from San Joaquin Valley Homes before reporting to a doctor for medical attention unless emergency services are contacted.

I certify that I understand that the illegal use of drugs or intoxicating beverages is prohibited and that I may be tested for illegal drugs or alcohol if I am involved in an accident or incident at work that results in injury or property damage. I agree that I shall not use marijuana, regardless of its legal status, during work hours or before work hours if it impairs my performance or the performance of others.

I certify that I understand that San Joaquin Valley Homes reserves the right to review any previous injury.

My signature certifies that I have read and understand all (8) pages of this Employee Safety Policy and agree to abide by it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Employee Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**REFUSAL TO SIGN**

These Rules were provided to and reviewed with \_\_\_\_\_ . However, he or she declined to sign this policy.  
Employee's Name

Note: Refusal to sign does not exclude any employee from the enforcement of these policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CALIFORNIA ANTI-FRAUD BILL (SB1218/228)**

The Workers' Compensation Anti-Fraud Bill took effect in 1992. This legislation should help to make the Workers' Compensation system more cost effective and to ensure that benefits go to workers with actual work related injuries or illness.

This law includes:

- **Felony criminal fraud is committed if anyone knowingly makes false statements to obtain or support a claim for benefits.**
- **Felony fraud convictions can be punishable by up to ten years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000, or double the fraud, whichever is greater.**
- **Physicians and attorneys are prohibited from employing runners, cappers, or steerers to procure patients and clients.**
- **Using cappers to solicit claims is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to 5 years in jail and a fine of \$10,000, or both.**
- **Qualified Medical Evaluators (QME) who are found guilty of using cappers can be fired, suspended or placed on probation.**
- **Insurers, self-insured employers and third-party administrators are required to report suspected fraudulent acts to their local district attorney or Bureau of Fraudulent Claims within 30 days of knowledge of fraud.**
- **The law prohibits print or broadcasting advertising services from printing or broadcasting any misleading, deceptive or false information about Workers' Compensation benefits.**

By signing below, I attest that I have read and understand the California Anti-Fraud Bill.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Employee Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature