



Safety Scene

Basic Spanish—A Little Goes a Long Way

Language barriers don't have to get in the way of a safe work environment.

by Molly E. Butz

Every year, Spanish-speaking workers continue to become a larger percentage of the U.S. workforce, particularly in construction and manufacturing industries. In the structural building components industry, some locations across the country report that 80 percent or more of their current workforce is Spanish-speaking. Because of this, component manufacturers should strongly consider learning to communicate with their workers in a language that both the supervisor and worker understand, especially when safety is at stake.

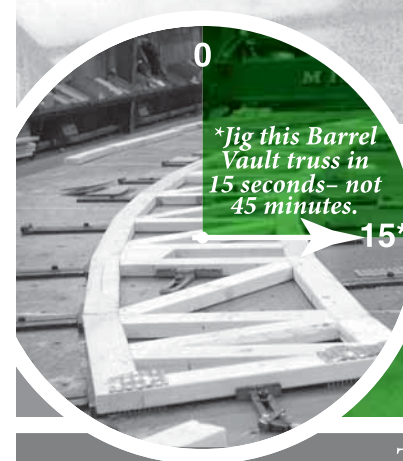
If you're fortunate enough to have an employee that speaks both English and Spanish fluently, great! If not, start with the very basics. Here are some simple words and phrases that you may find useful in your day-to-day operations. The list is short, but it just might mean avoiding that next in-plant injury!

My name is.....	Me llamo	"may yamo"
What is your name?	¿Como te llamas?	"como tay yamas"
What?	¿Qué?	"kay"
Where?	¿Dónde?.....	"doen-day"
When?	¿Cuándo?.....	"kwan-doe"
Who?	¿Quién?.....	"key-en"
Why?	¿Por qué?.....	"pour kay"
Yes.....	Sí.....	"see"
No	No.....	"no"
Go.....	Ve	"vay"
Stop.....	Para	"para" (par as in golf)
Follow me	Sígame	"see-gah-may"
Are you injured?	¿Está herido usted?	"es-tah err-ee-do oo-sted"
Call 911!	¡Llame a nueve uno uno!.....	"yame ah new-eh-vay oo-no oo-no"
First Aid Kit.....	Botiquín de primeros auxilios	"boat-ee-king day pree-mare-os owx-eel-ee-os"
Clean this up.....	Limpie esto	"lim-pee-ay ess-to"
Turn off the power	Apague el poder.....	"ah-pah-gay el poe-dare"
Caution/Careful	Cuidado	"kwee-dah-doe"
Danger	Peligro	"pay-lee-grow"
Dangerous.....	Peligroso.....	"pay-lee-grow-so"
Put on your	Póngase sus	"pohn-ga-say sus"
• Safety glasses	Gafas de seguridad	"gah-fas day say-gure-ee-dad"
• Gloves.....	Guantes.....	"gwan-tays"
• Ear plugs.....	Tapones de oídos.....	"tah-pohn-es day oh-wee-does"
• Hard hat	Casco de seguridad	"kas-co day say-gur-ee-dad"
• Respirator.....	Respirador	"res-peer-ah-door"

Take the time to work with your supervisors on these English to Spanish translations and visit **Support Docs** for a formatted, printable poster you can use at a safety meeting or post in your facility. And don't forget, everything sounds better with a please (por favor) and thank you (gracias)! Safety first! (¡La seguridad primero!) **SBC**

If you're looking for more safety training in Spanish, WTCA's Operation Safety and Forklift Certification programs are offered in both English and Spanish. For more information contact WTCA at 608/274-4849. This article was partially excerpted from Rural Builder, October 2004.

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at a glance

- It is common for close to 80 percent of a plant's workforce to be Spanish-speaking in our industry.
- You don't have to be bilingual to communicate effectively with your employees.
- Knowing a few key terms and phrases will help you keep your workers safe.

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