



BSA SAFETY MOMENT

USING A SAFETY MOMENT IN SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY

What do nuclear power plants, construction sites, aircraft carriers, and many hospitals have in common with Scouting? All constantly look for ways to eliminate hazards that could be life altering or fatal. One tool used by many safety-conscious groups is the safety moment or safety briefing that starts each meeting or activity with a pause to discuss a hazard or risk that can be prevented. The safety moment focuses the attention of the group on safety and how to achieve it. That's the “why” of the safety moment. Let's address the who, what, when, where, and how next.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can deliver a safety moment? Anyone who is willing to be prepared and to step up. Ideally, each Scout or Scouter (with some preparation) could step up and make a difference within his or her unit or group.

When and **where** should a safety briefing be delivered? At the beginning of a meeting or just before an activity—especially one that has some risk such as shooting, climbing, or aquatic activities.

What makes a great safety moment? Almost anything that focuses or educates the audience on a safety topic. The BSA publishes several [safety moments](#), and new topics are being developed on a regular basis. Other topics can include the use of [checklists](#) or safety tools such as [PAUSE](#) or focus on something such as hydration, safe driving, or simply the location of fire extinguishers or evacuation routes. The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, the [Scouting Safely website](#), and the Health and Safety newsletters are also great sources of ideas. If you have information that's accurate, don't shy away from discussing injuries or other incidents that occurred during a recent outing as long as the focus is on learning and prevention. Make it simple and easy to understand, and help the learners know how to apply the message.

How should the message be delivered? All messages should be delivered using facts and simple language and should be appropriate to the audience. Using a handout, slides, or a demonstration will help assure that those who hear the message understand it and know how to apply it. The message should be delivered in just a few minutes. Don't belabor the point or make it difficult.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Guide to Safe Scouting—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx

Safety Moments—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Safety_Moments.aspx

Scouting PAUSE—www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-046.pdf

Checklists—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS/gssax.aspx

Health and Safety newsletters—www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx