

Communication Protocols

“EARS”

If you are about to make a loud noise that could damage the hearing of those around you, yell “EARS” before you begin to work. Remember that the tool you’re about to use is loud, so saying “ears” quietly may not alert all the people who will be affected by your loud tool. If you hear “EARS” and you’re not wearing PPE, call “HOLD” and put on PPE.

“ALL STOP”

If you hear this, bring any powered or unpowered tool use to a stop as soon as it is safely possible to do so. Turn off any equipment you are using and pause conversations to receive instructions. If you observe an emergency situation, you may call “ALL STOP” to alert people in the shop to halt their work.

“Excuse me, I am about to make dust/fumes”

If you are about to undertake a task like sanding or painting that will generate dust or fumes that will affect those around you, notify them before you begin so that they have the opportunity to put on respiratory protection.

“Excuse me, I am concerned that...”

If you are concerned that another person in the shop is using a tool in a way that may injure themselves, someone else, or damage the tool itself, please let them know using this exact phrasing. Being respectful and polite in uncomfortable situations is critical to a safe & productive shop culture.

For example: “Excuse me, I am concerned that the 2×4 on the drill press is not clamped down and could spin around.”

Be sure to communicate your concern only when it is safe to do so.

“Thank you for your concern”

If another person in the shop expresses their concern, you should include “thank you for your concern” in your response whether you agree with their assessment or not. Being respectful and polite in uncomfortable situations is critical to a safe & productive shop culture.

Any disagreements about shop safety will be resolved by CD&F faculty.

The core of Gann workshop safety is our respectful workshop culture. When people feel supported and comfortable asking questions they are more likely to seek help when needed which goes a long way towards preventing accidents. What this means in practice is that by disrespecting your peers, in addition to being unkind, you are making the workshop a less safe space for everyone.