



Now and Tomorrow
Excellence in Everything We Do

Essential Skills and Apprenticeship

Essential Skills for Success as an Ironworker

Ironworkers use Essential Skills to complete trade-related tasks. Use this fact sheet to:

- learn how Essential Skills are used on the job;
- find out the skills you need to succeed in your trade; and
- help prepare yourself for your career.



Ironworker

Reading



- Read cutting and placement instructions on drawings.
- Read bulletins from employers and unions for new procedures for fall protection, accident reporting, and scaffolding installation.
- Read comments in job safety inspection reports to learn about job site hazards.
- Read and become familiar with health and safety policies.
- Read trade publications and union newsletters to learn about training opportunities and new products.

Document Use



- Locate material codes and placement coordinates from stamps on steel structures.
- Read warning signs for overhead wires, crane operations, and high voltages.
- Locate data in tables and lists such as beam weights, sling and bolt sizes, and materials needed for the job.
- Locate information in Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to understand hazardous products located in work areas.
- Locate dimensions and angles on drawings to understand the construction sequence.
- Review assembly drawings to verify the order and size when loading onto crane chokers.

