



## **FIRST Overview on Safety**

FIRST asks everyone involved in FIRST's programs to place the highest priority on safety, looking out not only for one's own safety but also the safety of others. Do not hesitate to speak up or act in the interest of safety. FIRST particularly wants to highlight safety measures in the areas of transportation, equipment and work safety, and guarding against abuse.

### ***Transportation***

Participants and volunteers should consider three categories of transportation-related risks: drivers, vehicles, and passengers:

- Drivers of vehicles should be properly licensed, insured, be adequately trained to drive the kind of vehicle used. They should drive prudently and not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Vehicles should be in good condition, and have required safety equipment, insurance, and inspections, and not be overloaded.
- Passengers should act safely, refrain from distracting the driver, and take proper safety precautions (i.e., use seat belts in vehicles so equipped).

### ***Equipment and work safety***

- Make sure you have training before using equipment, and follow appropriate safety procedures for that equipment.
- Teams may want to designate Safety Captains for the team to help reinforce equipment and work safety practices. Team participants are potential candidates for this position.
- Wear safety glasses when using equipment, working on the robot, or in the vicinity of these activities.
- Lift properly to avoid injury. Protect your hands.
- For FRC, make sure your robot respects the safety inspection requirements. All FRC robots must pass inspection before being allowed to compete.

### ***Guarding against abuse***

- Effective prevention of abuse and harassment begins with awareness. Abuse and harassment may be emotional, physical, or sexual.
- FIRST now has eligibility procedures for volunteer selection, training and supervision for FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) regional events and all components of the FIRST Championship, including the FLL World Festival. These measures are similar to those being used by many other youth-serving organizations.
- Staff and volunteers at FIRST events are distinguished by their official badges.
- Participants are expected to be in pairs or larger groups at all times going to, coming from, and during FIRST events. Volunteers and participants should avoid isolated situations where incidents or allegations are more likely to occur.
- The premises of FIRST events may be videotaped and photographed.
- Report any suspicions of harassment or abuse to the FIRST Event Manager or FIRST Staff immediately. FIRST will follow-up on all reports, and will take appropriate action.

**Any safety concerns, injuries, or other incidents should be reported to FIRST event volunteers and/or FIRST staff immediately.**