



## **Board Roles**

### **Video 2: Board Roles**

Welcome to Nonprofit Safety Hero, an initiative of the Washington Food Coalition. Our goal is to make sure you have the information and tools you need to keep people safe and healthy. This video is for board members who play a vital role in safety and health. You set the tone and ensure there are resources for good safety and health practices.

We specifically want to talk about five ways your board can improve the safety and health of your staff and volunteers: culture, risk assessment, budget, staffing, and celebration and Support. Let's start with culture. A board sets the general culture of an organization. We want to make sure it is a culture that lifts up safety and health. That means your board talks about safety and health at board meetings, asks if people have what they need to stay safe, and responds to any safety concerns with a sense of accountability.

A thread that runs through these three items is intentional communication that makes it clear that people and their safety are valued. Next, a board is responsible for risk assessment. Your board should perform a regular review of risks and opportunities so you know what needs to be addressed. We've created a separate video on the risk bow tie, a tool you can use to conduct your risk assessment.

There are many kinds of risks, but for safety and health, you should focus on risks related to food, tools and equipment, your building or workspace, and ergonomics.

That leads us right to budget. A board needs to budget for safety and health. That may include things like personal protective equipment (for example, gloves, masks, or goggles), equipment to make loads easier, such as carts, and training to perform tasks in the safest, most efficient way. During your next budgeting process, ask what investments are needed to help people stay safe and healthy.

Regarding the budget, the board also needs to make sure there is enough staffing for safety and health. That could mean either paid staff or volunteers. Make sure your organization has the right level of people power with the right amount of training and support. For example, you want to avoid

having a warehouse full of boxes that need to be moved, but only one volunteer to do it all. Overwork can lead to injury, which represents both heartbreak and expense.

Finally, a board needs to celebrate and support safety and health practices. That might mean recognizing a staff member who implements a new safety orientation, or it might mean a board member using their network to set up a first aid class. When a board celebrates and supports safety and health, it sends the message that it matters.

Those are the five ways your board can strengthen the safety and health of your organization. Culture, Risk Assessment, Budget, Staffing, and Celebration and Support.

Thank you, board members, for taking the time to watch this video and for being nonprofit safety heroes.