The term competent person comes up often in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) construction regulations. OSHA defines a competent person as “one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.”

Being safe is like breathing. You never want to stop.

Competent Person

The links on back provide specific information.
Additional Information for Presenters
Review the information provided on the reverse side of this safety tip sheet. Please refrain from reading the information verbatim—paraphrase it instead.

OSHA Standards That May Apply:
The following OSHA construction standards require a competent person to perform specific functions under the standard:

1926.20 General safety and health provisions
1926.53 Ionizing radiation
1926.62 Lead
1926.101 Hearing protection
1926.251 Rigging equipment for material handling
1926.354 Welding, cutting, and heating in way of preservative coatings
1926.404 Wiring design and protection
1926.451 Scaffolds
1926.454 Scaffolds, training requirements
1926.500 Fall protections, scope, application, and definitions
1926.502 Fall protection systems criteria and practices
1926 Subpart M, Appendix C. Personal fall arrest systems—non-mandatory guidelines
1926 Subpart M, Appendix E. Sample fall protection plan—non-mandatory guidelines
1926.503 Fall protection, training requirements
1926.550 Cranes and derricks
1926.552 Material hoists, personnel hoists, and elevators
1926 Subpart P, Appendix A. Excavations, soil classification
1926 Subpart P, Appendix B. Excavations, sloping and benching
1926.651 Specific excavation requirements
1926.652 Excavations, requirements for protective systems
1926.652 Concrete and masonry construction, requirements for lift-slab operations
1926.752 Steel erection, bolting, riveting, fitting-up, and plumbing-up
1926.800 Underground construction
1926.803 Underground construction, caissons, cofferdams, and compressed air
1926.850 Demolition, preparatory operations
1926.859 Mechanical demolition
1926.900 Blasting and the use of explosives
1926.1053 Ladders
1926.1060 Stairways and ladders, training requirements
1926.1101 Asbestos

Links:
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov

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