

Examples of Use

(This list is not all-inclusive. Use barricade tape where it is deemed appropriate.)

Danger Tape

- During elevated work
- Around holes
- Around trenches and excavations
- Around hot work areas
- During lifting operations and suspended loads
- Around extreme noise hazards
- Around areas that require respiratory protection
- Around high risk spills
- Identifying leading edges and boundary lines
- When "Out of Service" tags are not available

Caution Tape

- Identifying low clearance objects
- Identifying trip hazards
- Around low risk spills
- Identifying pinch points
- When a change in PPE level is required (ex. Steel Toes required)

Any barricade, including tape, should be placed a minimum of 6' away from the area being isolated.



Danger Tape or Caution Tape

When to Use Which

"If you put up red tape, you can't be inside it!"

Believe it or not, I actually had a safety professional say this one time. He knew that red tape meant, "Keep out," but he didn't realize that it did not apply to the crew doing the work inside. So, what are the differences between red barricade tape, and yellow caution tape?

Red barricade tape, or danger tape, has one main function which is, "Stop. Do not enter." When danger tape is erected around a work area, the work being done, or the environment of the work area is hazardous enough that if there is no reason for you to be in that area, you should stay out.

When putting up danger tape, make sure to follow the rules:

- The area should be barricaded on all 4 sides (or all accessible sides if you're against a wall).
- There should be a barricade tag attached to the tape that identifies the supervisor of the area with a phone number, and lists the hazard in the area.
- Danger tape should only be left up for the duration of the work, and should be taken down as soon as possible after the area is safe. Leaving barricade tape up when it is not needed leads others to complacency and to ignore the tape when they see it.

If you need to enter an area that is barricaded off, you must get permission from the supervisor listed on the barricade tag.

Yellow caution tape is a warning that there are low level safety and health hazards present. It's basically saying, "Enter this area with caution and be very aware of your surroundings." Examples could include trip hazards, excessive noise, heavy equipment use or a high traffic area.

The decision on which tape to use should be made by a competent person that understands the scope of work and the potential hazards that are associated with it.

The decision to remove barricade tape should also be made by a competent person that knows when the hazards in the area have been eliminated, or reduced to a level that warrants caution tape.

Finally, both caution and danger tape can be used to draw attention to hazards instead of barricading entry to an area.

Caution tape, for example, should be used as a temporary solution to identify low clearance objects such as piping.

Danger tape on the other hand can be used to identify equipment that has been tagged out of service when an actual tag is not available.

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