

FUTURE U.

Q&A With Boeing Health and Safety Specialist



Ever wonder what it is like to be “on location” and film in cool places like Boeing’s Composite Wing Center? One important factor we always keep in mind is safety, to make sure everyone involved in filming is safe and that we are abiding by the safety rules of each location. That’s where the role of the safety specialist comes in! Follow along as we chat with Elisabeth Crawford as she tells us more about her career path and the important work she does at Boeing.

1. Please describe your job. What is a typical day like for you?

My job as a Health and Safety Specialist focuses on keeping mechanics safe and healthy while they are at work in the factories. I also make sure all of our work processes comply with local and federal safety codes. When mechanics have any health and safety concerns, I work with them and our engineers to design solutions.

2. Can you explain some of the safety measures that on the factory floor that we see in the video?

We have a lot of automated equipment in this area that have extensive safety controls in place to keep employees safe. Some of these controls include safeguarding the space with a safety scanner to detect when people enter a restricted area. When equipment like this is moving, the scanners activate to ensure that people are not allowed in the area.

3. What is the protective clothing being worn by the employees in the background?

When employees are working with composite materials they must wear a Kevlar lab coat or an apron with sleeves. That way, employees are protected from exposure to the composite materials or any other chemicals they may use to complete their work. This clothing also protects the composite parts.

4. Why is safety so important at Boeing? Why is it important to you personally?

Safety is one of our enduring values at Boeing and, along with quality and integrity, is at the center of all we do. Keeping people safe is important to me because I see my coworkers as my community, friends and family. I want to make sure that every night they get home safe to their families.

5. How did you get interested in occupational safety and health? Were you always interested in science and technology?

I was always interested in pursuing a career in health care. When I got to college I realized that public health, which is the parent science of occupational health, was preventative. So instead of helping patients who were already hurt or sick, I could prevent people from getting hurt or sick.

In high school I focused on a lot of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classes; my favorites were biology and chemistry. I hope to be a policy maker one day so I can help write and approve the laws and codes that determine workplace safety.

6. What would you say to students who are interested in STEM but may not know how to translate that curiosity into a career path?

Follow your curiosity. Continue to study hard in your STEM classes and once you get to college, explore different fields within STEM. You never know what you will end up loving until you try it!