

Job Safety

Every company should adopt this philosophy into its safety program:

No job is so important and no service is so urgent that we cannot take the time to perform our work safely.

Why is safety so important? - Because it can prevent debilitating injuries and save lives. Unfortunately, some people never fully recover from work injuries, which can affect their ability to work at full capacity and earn a comfortable living.

Safety is also important for the employer's financial stability because high accident rates adversely affect their Worker's Compensation premiums. If the employer cannot afford the high cost of insurance, it puts jobs at risk.

Why do employees commit unsafe acts? - Most accidents are the direct result of an unsafe act by an employee. So it is the employer's responsibility to train employees on how to work safely, and the bulk of this training falls to the Supervisors. Here are some of the common excuses given for committing an unsafe act:

1. Habit – I always do it this way
2. Not thinking or not paying attention
3. I didn't know – No one told me not to do it that way
4. It's easier to do it this way
5. I was in a hurry
6. I can do it faster this way
7. I was trying to save time

Supervisors must:

1. Lead by example. Employees do not respect supervisors and managers that do not "practice what they preach".
2. Make safety awareness a high priority and incorporate it into the everyday work atmosphere.
3. Teach company safety policies to all employees and underscore the importance of working safely. Employees must understand the hazards of the job and how to avoid them.
4. Provide PPE (personal protection equipment), teach employees how to use it and ensure that each employee uses it as required.
5. Watch for unsafe conditions and unsafe actions made by employees, and then take corrective action as needed.
6. Investigate all accidents, report them on the appropriate paperwork, find the cause and then take corrective action.

The key to accident prevention - Employees and supervisors alike must be aware of their surroundings at all times; watch for potential injury situations, and take action to keep it from causing accidents.