

news & notes

SAFETY CASE STUDY

Steve was walking through a worksite one morning on his way to do some painting when he noticed a broken guardrail. He thought, "Someone should fix that," but he was in a hurry, so he continued walking and forgot about the guardrail. Several more people walked by, but they were all focused on their own tasks, so the guardrail remained broken.

Later that day, Bob was carrying some bulky materials through the area. He couldn't see around the materials, so he got too close to the edge of the walkway. Because the guardrail was broken, he fell 8 feet and broke his leg.

This story is a good example of why you should always say something when you see something dangerous. If Steve or any of the other people who noticed the broken guardrail had reported it to a supervisor, the guardrail could have been fixed before Bob got hurt.

Make it a point to look around with an eye toward safety. Do you see anything dangerous? When you notice a hazard, don't assume that someone else will take care of it. Fix it if you can do so safely and/or report it to a supervisor.

September 2016

Safety attitude adjustment

Take a refresher course this September

You know your job and do it well. But do you have the attitude required to do the job both well and safely? Do you need an attitude adjustment regarding safety?

If you have a poor attitude about safety, it will show up in everything you say and do. Sometimes, workers develop the attitude that safety rules were made to be broken—especially when no one is looking.

Even those who are hardworking and conscientious about every other aspect of their jobs can have a poor safety attitude. They may take shortcuts not because they are lazy but because they want to get the work done more quickly. Ignoring safety procedures, however, can cause accidents and injuries that slow down production more than working safely in the first place.

Most people don't intend to work with a bad safety attitude or even realize they have one. They think their last couple of accidents were just that—accidents that couldn't have been prevented. Here's how you can develop a good attitude concerning safety:

- Keep your mind focused on the job at hand. Put aside any personal problems that have been bothering you so that you can watch for hazards and accomplish what you have set out to do.
- Tell yourself that you will not let nearby noises or conversations interrupt your concentration or prevent you from doing the job safely.
- Don't give in to pressure from your coworkers to be unsafe. You don't have to join in with horseplay, take shortcuts, or participate in cover-ups. Instead, take the lead in behaving in an adult and responsible manner. If coworkers are behaving in an unsafe manner, tell a supervisor.
- Report all accidents and near misses, even if they seem unimportant at the time.
- Try to understand why an accident occurred to avoid making the same mistake twice.
- Always follow safe work practices and wear any personal protective equipment (PPE) that you are required to wear.
- Practice good housekeeping. Keep your work area free of clutter, and clean up spills promptly.
- Be considerate of your coworkers. Don't do anything that would endanger them. In fact, go a step farther and remind coworkers about safety. Say something when they forget to put on PPE or when they ignore the rules.



"You've reported your coworkers for unsafe climbing, open flames and throwing sharp objects. You do realize you work for a circus, right?"

By following these suggestions, you can develop a positive safety attitude, one that others will respect and look up to as an example. But even better than that, you'll be able to do productive work and stay safe at the same time.

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DOT DOCUMENTS DEATHS

Preliminary data released by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) shows a 7.7 percent increase in motor vehicle traffic deaths in 2015, the last year studied.

According to DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), an estimated 35,200 people died in 2015, up from 32,675 reported fatalities in 2014. The NHTSA estimate, which will undergo further analysis, shows 9 out of 10 regions within the United States with increased traffic fatalities.

The DOT is partnering with automakers, requiring that more than 99 percent of new vehicles have automatic emergency-braking standards by 2022. This safety technology could prevent thousands of crashes each year.

The DOT is also working to require vehicle-to-vehicle communications systems on new vehicles. The DOT says this technology could help drivers avoid or mitigate 70 percent to 80 percent of vehicle crashes involving unimpaired drivers.

Emergency command

Know who to turn to in a workplace emergency

September is National Preparedness Month (www.ready.gov/september). In your workplace, the **emergency scene coordinator**, _____ (name that person), is trained to issue orders during the emergency and to:

- Assess the incident to determine if it requires an emergency response.
- Determine if an evacuation is necessary and to manage an evacuation.
- Supervise emergency scene assistants *.
- Communicate with professional responders, such as ambulance, police, and fire departments.
- Direct shutdown of critical workplace equipment or operations.

***Emergency scene assistants** are responsible for a specific number of employees within a particular work area: _____ (name the one for your area). They know how to respond to emergencies and how to use emergency communication equipment. They are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and how to respond to threats of violence. Other responsibilities include:

- Knowing who needs assistance in an evacuation and how to assist them;
- Coordinating the emergency activities of the employees;
- Knowing the workplace layout, appropriate escape routes, and areas that employees must not enter during an evacuation; *and*
- Verifying that employees are in designated safe areas after an evacuation.

Follow the instructions provided by the emergency scene assistants.

Emergency!

Know what to do

Fire is the most common workplace emergency.

- If you hear the alarm, follow the recommended route to the nearest exit.
- If you have assigned duties like checking for co-workers or turning off machinery, do them at once if you can do so safely.
- Do not stop to get possessions; go immediately to the assigned meeting place.
- Know more than one way to exit the building in case your first one is blocked.

If a **natural or weather-related emergency** occurs while you are at work, depending on the circumstances, you may be told to:

- Stay at work and help to prevent property damage.
- Leave for home promptly.
- Stay at work until existing dangerous conditions subside and it is safe to leave.
- Go to a secure area, such as designated shelters or areas of refuge.

In case of a **medical emergency**, call for trained medical assistance as quickly as possible. Know the designated first-aid and CPR responders in your workplace.

If there is any threat of violent behavior:

- Notify security personnel or call local police.
- Stay calm and do not argue with anyone threatening violence.
- Talk calmly; this may avoid any actual violence until help arrives.



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