

news & notes

MAKE SAFETY YOUR BUSINESS

Here are the three levels of participation.

The first level is your involvement in doing your job safely. For example:

- Using tools and equipment safely
- Wearing required PPE
- Talking to your supervisor when you have questions
- Lifting properly to prevent injuries
- Avoiding risk-taking behavior

The second level includes the work area and work group. For example:

- Reporting unsafe conditions
- Keeping the work area clean and organized for safety
- Reporting accidents and near misses
- Looking out for co-workers and helping them keep safe

The third level involves organization-wide participation. For example:

- Looking for ways to make the work and the workplace safer
- Sharing safety ideas through the company's suggestion system
- Participating in safety committees
- Assisting in safety training programs as trainers and coaches
- Reaching out to co-workers to encourage them to work safely

Be an active participant and implement safety into everything you do!



Jacques Dubeuf, guillotine cleaner.
First and last day on the job.

April 2017

Safety Is in Your Hands

Do your share for a safer workplace

When you think about workplace safety responsibilities, you probably think about all the regulations and all the requirements OSHA puts on management to identify hazards and protect you and your co-workers. And it's true that management does have a big share in the responsibility for workplace safety. But OSHA also gives you a share of responsibility for safety on the job.

In return for the right to a safe workplace, OSHA assigns certain specific responsibilities to you and your co-workers, including the responsibility to:

- Obey OSHA standards.
- Follow workplace safety and health rules.
- Use assigned personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Participate in required safety training.
- Report hazardous conditions to management so they can take swift corrective action.
- Report job-related accidents, injuries, and illness to your supervisor and get medical attention.
- Cooperate with OSHA inspectors if they come to inspect our facility.

In addition to these OSHA-assigned safety responsibilities, we ask you to also:

- Take responsibility for learning everything you need to know about your job and work area so that you can always work safely.
- Avoid taking risks and engaging in any unsafe acts.
- Talk to your supervisor any time you have a question about your safety.
- Cooperate in our safety inspection and hazard analysis programs.
- Participate in safety committees and other safety initiatives.
- Look for ways to make your job and the workplace safer and make suggestions about how to do that.

If we all do our share and take responsibility for our safety and the safety of all our co-workers, we can't fail in our mission to prevent accidents, injuries, and work-related illness. Sure, it's a big job, and we have to remain vigilant and strive every day to hunt down and eliminate hazards. But together we can do it! Won't you pitch in and join with your co-workers? We need you to succeed.

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DOT & RAILROAD CROSSINGS

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has launched a \$7 million media campaign called *Stop. Trains Can't*. The goal is to reduce accidents and related fatalities at railroad crossings.

The campaign targets men between 18 and 49 years old in states where the nation's 15 most dangerous crossings are located, and, states that had 75 percent of the crossing accidents in 2015.

The states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

Although rail incidents have declined over the last decade, crossing fatalities spiked in 2014. By law, trains always have the right of way because they cannot swerve, stop quickly, or change directions to avert collisions. The DOT points out that a freight train traveling at 55 miles per hour takes a mile—the length of 18 or more football fields—to stop, even when the emergency brake is applied.



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Bottom 10 List

The world's worst excuses for not working safely

Have you ever tried to justify not working safely or heard a co-worker making excuses for unsafe acts? Few of us are immune from occasionally making excuses or taking risks. Here are 10 of the worst excuses for not working safely:

1. **I didn't know**—Why didn't you ask your supervisor to find out before you started working?
2. **I wasn't paying attention**—What *were* you thinking about? What could be more important than keeping alert to hazards while you work?
3. **I meant to, but**—But what?
4. **I forgot**—How could you forget about something as important as your own safety?
5. **I didn't have time**—Do you have time to be laid up in the hospital because of an accident?
6. **It could have happened to anybody**—Then why did it happen to you?
7. **We were just fooling around**—Will you still think it was fun when someone gets hurt?
8. **PPE is uncomfortable**—Would you be more comfortable without an eye, with a hole in your head, or with toxic vapors in your lungs?
9. **Rules are for fools**—And what do you call someone who ignores a rule made for his or her own safety and takes a reckless risk?
10. **I thought it would be okay just this once**—And so just how many times *do* you have to take a risk before you have an accident?

When you get right down to it, there really is no *good* excuse for unsafe acts.

Spring cleaning

Take precautions with cleaning chemicals

If you have cleaning responsibilities at work, follow safe work practices. To protect workers from the hazards of cleaning products, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have produced a bulletin titled *Protecting Workers Who Use Cleaning Chemicals* at www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3512.pdf. The document addresses several subjects, including safe work practices when using cleaning chemicals.

Here's what you need to know (Many of these precautions apply at home, too.):

- Never mix cleaning products that contain bleach and ammonia.
- Know which chemicals must be diluted and how to correctly dilute them.
- Attend training and apply what you learn about the use and storage of cleaning chemicals, and about emergency spill procedures for cleaning chemicals.
- Wear the required personal protective equipment needed for each chemical, such as gloves and/or goggles.
- Know how to read the labels on all containers of cleaning products and chemicals to identify content and hazards. Report containers that are not labeled, and don't use the chemicals from those containers.
- Check with your supervisor about ventilation systems that may be needed during cleaning to allow sufficient airflow and prevent buildup of hazardous vapors.
- Know where you can wash up after using cleaning chemicals.