



MAFES Dawg Tracks

October 24, 2011



Seven Common Causes of Accidents



Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions. Consider that 80 out of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident.

Accidents occur for many reasons. In most industries people tend to look for “things” to blame when an accident happens instead of getting down to the basic or “root cause.”

Take a look at the “root causes” below and think about if you have ever been guilty of any of these behaviors or attitudes. If so, you may have made it past them at the time, but you might not be so lucky the next time:

➤ **Taking Shortcuts:**

Human nature kicks in when working. We want to try to do a job faster and more efficient. These time savers just might put you or your fellow workers in “harm’s way.” Shortcuts that decrease your safety risks are shortcuts but possibly shortcuts to an injury.

➤ **Being Over Confident:**

Having confidence is a good thing and over confidence is having too much of a good thing. “It’ll never happen to me” is an attitude that can lead to mistakes in tools, job procedures and methods in your work. Any of these can lead to an injury.

➤ **Failure to Preplan the Work:**

There is much talk today about Job Hazard Analysis. JHA’s are an effective way to work safely and effectively. Being hasty in starting a task or not thinking through the process can put you in “Harm’s way.” **Plan your work and work your plan!**

➤ **Instructions:**

To do a job right the first time you need the complete information. Sending an employee to do a job with a partial set of instructions is very frustrating and can be dangerous.

If you aren’t sure about the instructions for the tasks, please ask for more instructions and ask for clarification on them. Some people are shy of asking because they don’t want to appear “dumb.” **The dumb part is not asking. No question is dumb.**

➤ **Poor Housekeeping:**

When executives, friends or guests walk through a facility, housekeeping is an indicator of the attitude about quality, safety and pride in the facility. Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types. Well-maintained facilities set standards for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves both pride and safety.

➤ **Ignoring Safety Procedures:**

Failing to follow procedures can endanger you and your fellow workers. You are paid to follow company safety policies and not ones that you make up for your convenience. A “casual” safety attitude can lead to a “casualty.”

➤ **Mental Distractions from Work:**

Having a bad time at home and worrying about them at work is a hazardous combination. Dropping your “mental” guard can pull your focus away from doing safe work. Distractions can come in many forms. A friend walking by and talking can get you off tract - or thinking about that 8 point buck that you missed can distract you.

Ted Gordon- Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.

MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201

Excerpts: www.toolboxtopics.com

3/28/2009