

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



October 21, 2013



*Safety Tips: Practice  
the Right Safety  
Attitude*

Attitudes affect just about everything we do in our daily lives. In our work, if everyone cares about each other and watches out for them, taking safety seriously, it tends to reflect in fewer injuries and less equipment problems. Senior employees are conscious of this and hopefully are reflecting it down to the newer employees.

The right safety attitude means that everyone takes responsibility for the well-being of each other. As an example: There is a tool or scrap on the shop floor, which maintenance should pick up, but another associate walks by picks it up and returns the tool to its rightful place or picks up the scrap and disposes of it. These positive examples will serve as positive approaches for other employees. I saw a sign in an automotive shop that says:

## **"GOOD SAFETY ATTITUDES ARE CONTAGIOUS!"**

We all have stories of how one employee has helped or assisted in protecting another from an accident or potential injury, which is the result of exactly what we discussed above. Everyone looking out for each other relates to a safer working environment for every employee.

## **HAVING A GOOD OR POSITIVE SAFETY ATTITUDE**

### **MEANS-**

- ✓ Doing the best job that you can- not necessarily the fastest job that you can.
- ✓ Being careful on the job- avoiding horseplay.
- ✓ Staying focused on the task that you are assigned to or working on.
- ✓ Being on the lookout for potential hazards and reporting them to your supervisor.
- ✓ Taking precautions against hazards, such as using the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is provided for you.
- ✓ Following all of the safety rules and paying close attention to warning signs.
- ✓ Thinking about the safety of you fellow employees besides yourself.
- ✓ Taking responsibility for your own safety- including immediately reporting any injuries.

## **COMMON DISTRACTIONS-**

There are many reasons why employees get distracted from the job that they are working on, which is one reason why they end up with an injury. Some common distractions to watch out for are:

- Not getting enough sleep
- Coming to work upset or mad
- Coming to work under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

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There are many reasons employees get distracted from the job that they are working on, which is one reason they can end up with an injury. Some common distractions to watch out for are:

- Having your mind "a thousand miles" from your present work or "daydreaming"
- Getting in too big of a hurry
- Being angry or upset while at work
- Not focusing on the assigned task
- Not maintaining an awareness of potential hazards
- Talking with other employees instead of staying focused on your assignment

## **POOR SAFETY ATTITUDES-**

Little do we think about this, but poor attitudes can lead to potential hazards or even an injury. If you feel guilty about some of these bad attitudes, it isn't too late to change. The old adage that a "leopard doesn't change his spots" is not always true. You can change a bad attitude:

### **Following are some examples of poor attitudes:**

- I know what I'm doing, so I'll do my way.
- This is the way I have always done this job and I've never been hurt.
- I've done this so long - I can do in my sleep.
- Can't think about safety - have to get finished.
- I know a shortcut that will let me finish early.
- This is a simple job.
- The safety rules don't apply to me and aren't very important.
- I can figure how to do this. I don't need any help.

## **TIPS IN DEVELOPING A GOOD SAFETY ATTITUDE-**

- If you're new to a job be sure that you get all the appropriate job training. Having a good safety attitude includes being willing to listen and learn and not portray the image that you "**know it all**".
- Always put safety first – including not trying to do it fast to finish early.
- Dress properly for the job – using the proper PPE as required. Follow the rules on proper dress for the job.
- Attend all safety meetings and safety training. Listen-Participate-Ask questions about items that concern you.
- Consider the results or misfortune of not having a good safety attitude. The results could be a disabling injury or at worse death. How would you be able to support your family in either situation? If you have children, how would this affect them?

**<> BETTER SAFE THAN  
SORRY <>  
SAFETY  
IS EVERYONE'S  
RESPONSIBILITY**