

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND  
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

10 Commandments  
Of  
Good Safety Habits

Working in manufacturing, I spent many years in engineering and management. Apparel manufacturing in those early years consisted of predominantly semi-manual labor on the machines, as technology for the industry hadn't arrived yet. But as modern technology came in to existence, selling piece rates, new methods, and automated equipment made it critical to use "tricks" for motivating our employees to perform to meet customer orders and to retain loyal employees for our company.

We worked tirelessly to introduce methods for efficiency for employees to perform their jobs and at the same time we wanted to make their jobs efficient and for them to be able to earn a reasonable salary.

Following are traits that will help to accomplish those tasks for any industry, whether it is hard manufacturing or agriculture:

- ✓ **Set your own standards –**  
Whatever your job description may be, develop your own standards or goals to reach and maintain the accepted levels of quantity, quality, and safety skills for the position.
- ✓ **Operate equipment only if you are qualified –**  
Your supervisor may not be totally familiar with your skill level or experience, so it is your responsibility to make sure he understands your situation and make arrangements to have you fully trained before you begin a job.
- ✓ **Respect Machinery –**  
Regardless of your level of experience on your job, be extra careful when looking at potential "short cuts" and not focusing on the work. Either of these fallacies can cause you to get hurt or have a problem with the equipment.
- ✓ **Use your own expertise or initiative for safe protection –**  
You, personally, know better than anyone how to perform your job. As you work, anticipate or acknowledge the potential for equipment problems that harm you or cause a problem with the equipment. If this should happen, go to your supervisor and advise him of the possible equipment malfunction and the potential for personal injury to yourself. Going out "half-cocked," as they say, can cause injury to you or the equipment or both.

- ✓ **Ask questions –**  
If you are uncertain or confused with something to do with your work or equipment, don't hesitate to ask for help. The very worst decision you can make is to be confused or uncertain and not ask for help. An old prophet once said that the question that you don't ask just may be the one that clears up confusion for more than just yourself.
- ✓ **Use care and caution when lifting –**  
Most back and muscle injuries are caused by overexertion. Check the load before you attempt to lift it. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to ask for help or get a machine to assist you in lifting a load that is too much for one person.
- ✓ **Practice good housekeeping –**  
Dirty and unorganized work areas are eye sores but, more than that, they are areas that are prime sources for potential hazards. The other side of this pendulum is the attractive, clean, and well organized work area makes for a faster, more efficient, and safer place for work projects. It also presents a positive image for visitors and guests.
- ✓ **Wear proper and sensible work clothes –**  
In our agriculture environment, one should wear sturdy shoes or boots that are ideal for our type of work. Open toe shoes, sandals, or dress shoes aren't suitable for our work and are an invitation for injury. Avoid wearing jewelry and loose fitting clothing that could cause an entanglement. If you have long hair, tie it back in a ponytail. Jewelry, loose clothing, and long hair getting caught in a revolving shaft or a pulley means a sure critical injury and possible death.
- ✓ **Practice good personal hygiene –**  
Avoid touching your eyes, face, or mouth with dirty, greasy hands. Wash thoroughly when you finish or leave a project. A skin or body lotion is good to apply after you wash to keep your skin supple and to keep your skin from cracking open. Most rashes and skin irritations are caused by poor hygiene.
- ✓ **Be a positive part of the safety team –**  
Be a leader, role model, and a good example for your fellow employees. Accept the safety rules willingly and encourage others to do the same. It has been said by wiser men that everyone is being watched by someone else that we probably aren't aware of. By this fact, if we portray a positive attitude for others to follow, this might be just the thing that flips another fellow employee to be a positive example.

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**IT'S EASIER TO ASK A DUMB QUESTION THAN TO  
FIX A DUMB MISTAKE!**

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**SAFETY - A SMALL INVESTMENT FOR A  
RICH FUTURE**