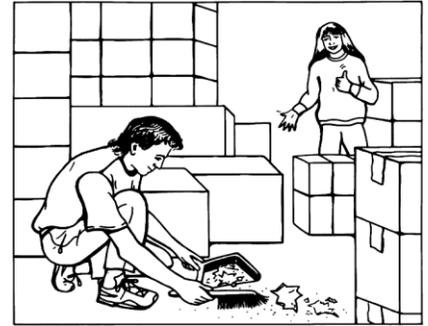




The right safety attitude

Humans instinctively seek to avoid pain and death. And yet, we act in a manner that is a threat to our well-being. There are a couple of reasons why this occurs. The first is lack of knowledge. What you do not know, can hurt you!. The second reason we may act in a risky manner is attitude. Now might be a good time to do a quick self-analysis. What is your attitude toward safety?

Have you ever noticed that people who are successful in life, or are just happy, tend to have a positive attitude? And so it is with safety. Look at it this way. . . safety rules and procedures are written to protect you from harm. They are not written to make your work life more uncomfortable or inconvenient. After all, safety equipment and training costs your employer additional up front money.



If you cooperate in safety matters, not only is there a lesser likelihood of you getting hurt, you will not be doing battle with the boss who is just trying to do his job by enforcing the safety rules. In addition, you should feel more confident on the job knowing you have a better chance of making it thorough the day without injury. Less fear of injury and the boss no longer on your back has to brighten your day!

We are not perfect. Even the best of us can forget or make errors in judgment. To maximize our safety efforts, we must look out for one another. If someone tells you that you are not working in a safe manner, do not become angry or defensive. They are just looking out for your well-being. If you did not know you were doing something wrong, be thankful your errors were noted before someone got hurt. If you simply forgot or got a little careless, be grateful that someone cares enough to get you back on track. If you see someone doing something unsafe, speak up, but do so diplomatically. Treat others just as you would like to be treated in the same situation.

Remember, attitude affects behavior. If you have a positive attitude, odds are you will exhibit safe behavior. A negative attitude toward safety will only cause conflict, stress and, ultimately, an accident.

Good Safety Attitude

How a person deal with these elements adds up to his safety attitude. A good attitude is a habit everyone can learn!

- 1. FOCUS.** A good attitude means a person is focused on the present task. How well is he concentrating? If something else is on one's mind or an interesting conversation is going on nearby, he may be distracted. If he is tired or bored, a slip is easy.
- 2. TIME.** A good attitude means taking time to do the job right. Sure, it takes longer to put on that extra safety gear. But is saving a few minutes worth a painful injury? A good attitude also means managing one's time well. It may help him to make a list of what he need to do each day. Number his tasks, going from the most important to the least important. If he can do them in that order, he'll know he is doing the most important things first and will be less likely to rush.
- 3. STRENGTH.** No, not muscular strength, but the strength to do what's right. Others may want one to take shortcuts or fool around. They may ask him to "forget" to file an accident report. A good attitude means one has the strength to do the right thing.
- 4. RESPONSIBILITY.** If one care about himself and others at work, he'll take responsibility even when a certain task "isn't his job." Wouldn't everyone appreciate it if someone had cleaned up that broken glass instead of leaving it for others to find as slivers in your hand? A good attitude means thinking of himself as part of a team. Everyone helps make it a winning one.
- 5. RISK.** There's no way to avoid all risks. But one can weigh the risks of doing a job in a certain way.

Even if the risk is one in a thousand, IT MUST BE CONSIDERED.

A good attitude means being smart and avoiding unnecessary risks.

Attitude Affects Everyone

The attitude toward safety is a habit that affects everyone at work and at home. One can always think of excuses for not acting with safety in mind, but in the end, it makes a lot more sense to have a good safety attitude.

Attitude Is Everything

Having a safe attitude is more than just following the rules. It's that extra something that means one care about safety.

To show one keep safety in mind when he should...

Focus on the job you're doing, even when he would rather be doing something else.

Take time to do the job right, even if it means getting out extra safety equipment and going over procedures.

Take responsibility for safety, even when it's "not his job."

Do the right thing, even when others want him to take shortcuts or fool around.

Know the risks of unsafe tasks, and avoid them whenever he can, even when it means taking more time to get the job done safely.