

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

When an accident occurs, we are quick to investigate the cause and prevent the accident from reoccurring. But wouldn't it be easier to prevent the accident in the first place?

Don't Wait Until an Accident Happens

Too often, hazardous conditions come to our attention only after someone is hurt or seriously injured. If you see an unsafe act or unsafe condition, don't ignore it and gamble on yourself or a friend getting hurt. If you notice someone working in an unsafe manner, let that person know. You could be preventing a serious injury. If you see an unsafe condition, correct it. If you can't, report it to your supervisor.

The main things that we look for when an accident occurs are the Root Cause and Contributing Factors. These are usually found as Unsafe Conditions or Unsafe Actions. Almost all accidents can be prevented by eliminating Unsafe Actions and Unsafe Conditions.

Some Examples of Unsafe Actions:

- Climbing an unsecured ladder
- Working at heights unprotected
- Throwing material from heights without checking below
- Operating equipment that you are unfamiliar with or untrained to operate
- Not planning work.

Some Examples of Unsafe Conditions:

- Non-compliant or inadequate guard rail
- Defective or damaged equipment
- Unknown weight capacities and WLL (Working Load Limits)
- Poor or reckless supervision
- Lack of proper safety equipment
- No safety program
- No management support of safety program

Unsafe Actions and Unsafe Conditions can cause many accidents and frequently a combination of the two can be uncovered during accident investigations.

If we can eliminate these actions and conditions, we will be taking enormous steps towards making our projects accident-free.

Points to Take with You:

- If you eliminate unsafe actions and conditions, you will reduce accidents.
- Review your tasks beforehand and identify hazards.

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TOOLBOX TALKS Accident Prevention

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