

Preventing Accidents by Improving Safety Attitudes and Actions

Millions of people suffer painful injuries each year, from workplace accidents.

It is estimated that accidental injuries occur every four seconds.

The costs are over a billion dollars in damages.

Medical bills, lost wages and lost production time cost in excess of 90 billion dollars a year.

Accidents cause personal pain and suffering.

Many injured workers face a long recovery.

Injured workers may require a lengthy period of physical rehabilitation.

Co- workers have to work harder to recover lost production time.

Your off- the- job activities are also affected.

Many injuries will prevent normal leisure- time activities.

Accidents affect those in your household. Your family will often have to pitch in to do jobs around the house that you normally would do.

Very often, employees blame accidents on unsafe conditions, such as slippery floors, loose handrails, and broken tools.

But most accidents- nearly 80% of all accidents- are caused by UNSAFE BEHAVIOR.

The way to combat this is to develop a good “safety attitude”.

You can prevent accidents from happening by:

- Not rushing, and taking shortcuts
- Following standard safety practices
- Checking for hazards, prior to starting work
- Looking around to do a safety check of your work area.

If you spot a potential hazard, correct it or report it right away.

Pay attention to the job at hand- don't let your mind wander.

Safe Work Practices are important.

Know your limitations- if you need help- ask for it.

Have the proper training to do the job. If you are unsure, ask your supervisor.

Read all instructions prior to starting a task.

Have the right tools for the task; be sure they are in good condition, and use them correctly.

Take your time- be cautious!

Protect yourself-wear all required PPE for the task.

Use safe lifting techniques- test the object to be lifted/ moved prior to the lift. Keep your knees bent; lift smoothly with your legs; get help for large/ bulky items.

Check the pathway you will be using- is it clear- free of obstacles?

Are floors clean and dry? Is there a procedure for reporting and cleaning up spills? Take the initiative, and take care of it now, instead of waiting for someone else to do it.

Are handrails in place on all stairways? Do you use them?

You have a responsibility to yourself, and to the organization, to be a safe worker.

Your safety attitude will make a difference in your job, and it may make a difference in whether you return home at night to your family, in the same way you arrived that morning.