

The Right Safety Attitude

Employees are paid for production, and there can be no quarrel with the worker who gives his or her all toward this end. However, this doesn't mean you have to take safety shortcuts, since statistics indicate that high production and accident prevention go together like love and marriage.

Accidents cost money, and must be paid for by the University. This cost is not like the cost of materials, equipment or wages. It is a total loss, to say nothing of the loss and suffering of the injured employee. There is no return for the University or the injured employee on money spent as the result of an accident. Look at it this way—a good profitable business is an accident-free business.

When you buy a house, a car or any large item you weigh the advantages and disadvantages before you invest your money. The same is true of investing your time and effort in safety, with one exception. You may decide to forego the expense of a new car, but should not, in fact cannot afford to forego your "safety investment."

A good safety attitude toward laws, rules, and housekeeping practices is the best way to protect yourself and your fellow employees from accidents. What is your attitude about safety? People with bad attitudes or no attitudes about safety blame accidents on the "law of averages." But accidents don't just happen—they are caused. Most accidents happen as a result of an unsafe condition, a bad safety attitude or both. People with bad attitudes are showing disregard for themselves and others. Just look at drivers on the road an analysis of traffic crashes, shows that bad attitudes often cause unsafe acts, and unsafe acts are involved in most accidents. The same is true in your job.

People who take chances, who try to repair machines while they are running, or remove a guard to make the work go quicker are showing a bad safety attitude. You can never be smart enough or quick enough to beat the odds!

What about good attitudes toward safety? All of us are required to follow certain procedures in our jobs, but that isn't enough. A good safety attitude is your best defense against injury. After all, you have the most to gain...or lose.

One way to build a good safety attitude is to learn your job well. Know the hazards. If you have problems, check with your supervisor. If you understand your work, you will have a better knowledge of why safe attitudes are needed.

Another way to develop a good safety attitude is to set an example for others. If you see a piece of scrap on the floor, or in the normal pathway, take the time to pick it up. It could cause an injury to someone else. This may sound too simple to work, but it really does. **Safe Attitudes are contagious.**