

Location _____ Trainer _____ Date _____

ACCIDENTS DON'T JUST HAPPEN

Whenever there's an accident - whether a man's killed, or your wife breaks a teacup - somebody is sure to ask, "How did it happen?" Contrary to popular belief, accidents don't "just happen". They are always caused and the cause is almost always that some person or persons fell down on the job somewhere along the line.

Suppose you fall on the stairs in your own house and break a leg. That didn't "just happen". There was no little demon waiting to trip you. Something made you fall. And that something was the result of an action of some person, or the failure of some person to act when he should have. Chances are the fall was your own fault. Maybe you were in a hurry and took the stairs faster than you can safely. Maybe you had a few beers. Maybe you were trying to carry an awkward load that put you off balance. Maybe your eyesight is bad, and you haven't bothered to get proper glasses. But maybe somebody else did something to cause the accident. Maybe Junior left his roller skates on the stair or mom left a mop bucket. Maybe the carpet was torn or the banister broken, and no one in the family bothered to fix it. Maybe the light was poor, and you hadn't gotten around to installing a good light.

It's just this simple. Not every dangerous act produces an accident. But no accident is ever produced unless one or more dangerous acts are committed. Sometimes we kid ourselves by thinking, "Well, everything is just right, so I can break the rule, because it won't produce an accident in this case." That kind of thinking is just the type that produces all those deaths you hear about from so-called unloaded guns. A guy thinks he knows the gun doesn't have a bullet in it. But sometimes he is wrong about its being unloaded, which is why the old safety rule about guns says, "Never point a gun at anything you don't want to kill."

In your daily work, you know the safe way to do the job. Just remember that if you always do your job that way, you'll never be the guy who caused an accident. That's just as true of accidents on the job. Every accident is caused by somebody, and most accidents are caused by a combination of human failures.