

Location _____ Trainer _____ Date _____

HOW'S OUR SAFETY ATTITUDE?

What is an attitude? Webster says it is a feeling, a point of view based on a strongly held conviction. It is the way an individual or a group of people think or believe. It often leads to a fixed way of acting. Attitudes can be good or bad, strong or weak, safe or unsafe, and they can be changed.

It is obvious that these attitudes are not conducive to safety:

- "It can't happen to me."
- "The law of averages caught up with me."
- "It was just one of those things."
- "Accidents are the price of progress."
- "When my time is up, that's it."

Unsafe attitudes will ultimately lead to dangerous, unsafe actions. There are those who ignore safety rules whenever it is not convenient to obey them or who, perhaps, do not believe the rules apply to them. A person may remain indifferent to danger as long as he/she is unaware of its existence, but there is no excusing the person who remains indifferent after becoming aware of it, thinking that the danger is only slight, or will not cause any real harm. Rules grow out of past accident experience, and are intended to prevent future accidents. Why learn the hard way when we can profit from past experience?

Chance-taking is usually caused by unsafe attitudes - like using a grinding wheel without eye protection, since it is just a short job and the goggles aren't handy anyway.

Life is not a wheel of chance. Are you really smarter, quicker, or luckier than others, clever enough to beat the odds? There are three basic reasons or causes of accidents, namely:

- Improper attitude
- Lack of knowledge or skill
- Physical defects.

Proper job training and job placement can effectively control the latter two categories, but the first category poses entirely different problems - problems for which there are no pat answers.

One of the best ways to develop and promote safe attitudes, among others, is to set a good example. If you see an object on the floor, pick it up; if you see a spot of grease, wipe it up before someone trips or slips. You will be surprised how many will follow your example.