

SAFETY TOPICS

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Location _____ Trainer _____ Date _____

SAFETY CHOICE NOT BY CHANCE

Years ago, I used to believe that some people were just lucky, some got the breaks in life that led to prosperity, and some just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Some people still apply this old philosophy to working safely; i.e., you're just lucky if you don't get hurt or if you are able to work for a period of time without an accident, your number just did not come up, and so on.

I don't believe this at all anymore. Over the years I have watched and studied the differences that exist between people in the workplace. For sure, we are all created as very unique individual beings capable of far more than we really ever achieve. I am continually amazed at this creation of God and the unlimited adaptability of our bodies and minds to all situations that are presented. Each person will handle these situations because of our individualism. But, what is common to those employees who seem to never get hurt when faced with even hazardous circumstances? Why do employees at one location have frequent injuries when the employees at another almost identical plant have few or none?

I believe the secret to the above questions lies in our minds and more precisely, the attitudes we have toward a task at hand. The human mind is a rational entity, most of the time, that is fully capable of surveying a task, spotting the possible hazards, arriving at acceptable solutions, and making the right choices to do a job safely. Our attitude is the motivating force that guides us in making the right choices and is the common reason why some employees get hurt and others do not.

The word "attitude" is defined as "a mental position with regard to a fact or state." If we are mentally alert to what we're doing and have a positive feeling about ourselves and our accomplishments, we can begin to choose to work safely in all situations. This positive mental orientation will go a long way to take the "chance" out of our safety performance as we "choose" to live and work without accidents.

Stop and think sometimes about how important your life is to you and to your loved ones. If you enjoy life, then you must care about keeping it safe and intact. The needs of your loved ones are strong factors to encourage the right attitude toward work and safety. My favorite safety poster pictures a pretty little girl holding her teddy bear while looking out a door expectantly waiting for her daddy to come home at night.

I hope the above words will help to encourage us all to realize what a marvelous creation we are and that we are fully capable of making the choice to work safely under any conditions.