

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



January 8, 2007

*Report It or Regret It*



In our business or work, everyone is a safety inspector. We should think of it as part of a job. In most any work climate, or for that matter, the Armed Forces, everyone looks out for their partners or associates. We aren't any different.

We should all look out for each other and look for hazards that may enter the area. In some situations, those who are qualified may repair some hazards, thus reducing them from a possible hazard to a repair. Otherwise, we should report hazards as soon as we see them.

## **ITEMS THAT NEED REPORTING:**

- Accidents – Sometimes for whatever reason, an accident may fail to be reported. The costs of not reporting an accident can be very severe. Today it is a possible problem, but not reported; tomorrow it could be critical or even fatal. As abrupt as it sounds, if a problem is not reported, it could resemble setting a trap for someone to walk into.
- Close Calls – Sometime close calls are not reported for fear of getting in trouble, embarrassment, or possibly even peer pressure. Failing to report a close call can result in causing a critical or fatal injury. Sometimes we can learn more from a close call than from an actual accident.
- Damaged, broken, or malfunctioning equipment – You may see a flaw or needed repair in a piece of equipment and not report it for some reason. The next person to use the equipment may see the flaw or needed repair, but not take action. They may not see it and began to use it, and “BAM”, he/she gets shocked or cut, both of which can be critical and /or fatal.

- Spills – The hazard of spills can be toxic and / or can cause slips or trips and falls. Chemical spills can cause environmental damage, fires, and explosions. Certain materials can be a threat to the entire community.
- Fire hazards – Every employee needs to be conscious of fire hazards. Accumulations of combustible materials or oil-soaked rags in the wrong place can cause a quick fire from a misdirected or mistaken electrical spark.
- Defective Safety Equipment – Empty fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, or Personal Protective Equipment that aren't functioning correctly are prime examples of safety equipment that can cause problems and possible injury if they aren't maintained.
- Unsafe Conditions – Areas of our work environment that are potential job hazards must be reported by any employee that comes upon one of these conditions. It could mean a situation involving materials or equipment, but it also could involve an employee working carelessly or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Injuries – Minor injuries, like minor problems, have a way of “snowballing” or becoming major. A small cut or other type of personal injury not attended to correctly can become infected, resulting in extended care and even in a remote situation amputation. We should report small insignificant problems to protect them from becoming major, resulting in lost time, hospitalization, and maybe a loss of body parts or bodily function.

For various reasons, many hazards and injuries go unreported. Some are through oversight, inconvenience of contacting the correct party, or maybe just the thought that it is really their job. All injuries and close calls should be reported for the obvious reasons. We need to report anything that threatens or endangers the life of you or other employees or even the general public.

***SAFETY – YOU DO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE !!***

***ALERT TODAY -  
ALIVE TOMMOROW !!***