

# MAFES Dawg Tracks

June 29, 2009

Seven Common Causes of Accident Hazards



According to safety statistics, 80 out of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the accident.

***Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents as unsafe conditions.***

There are any numbers of reasons why accidents happen. In most areas of work, whether it is on the farm or in an industry, people tend to look for things or reasons to blame an accident on because it is easier than looking for the root causes.

I hope this newsletter will serve as an eye-opener or memory-jogger to help us to stay focused and avoid any of these hazards.

## **TAKING SHORTCUTS** –

Human nature makes us want to look for ways or methods to make a job faster, easier and more efficient. Shortcuts sometimes put our safety, or the safety of our fellow workers, at risk. If this happens, then they aren't shortcuts, but are risk inhibitors. That puts us or other employees in harm's way for an increased risk of injury.

## **OVER CONFIDENCE** –

Confidence is a good thing. Overconfidence is too much of a good thing. Overconfidence breeds an attitude of it can't happen to me which leads to actions that we think are automatic and are performed without much thought, but which are done on impulse. This attitude can lead to the use of improper methods, procedures or tools. Any of these can lead to an injury.

***"It's better to be careful 100 times than to get killed one."*** - Mark Twain

***STOP ACCIDENTS BEFORE  
THEY STOP YOU!!***

## **STARTING A JOB WITH INCOMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS** –

The most insecure thing that can happen is to be sent to do a job and the instructions aren't clear or all of the instructions were not given. Both situations can cause a problem and may result in an injury. In many cases, we are afraid to ask questions for fear of appearing a little dense, but we're all human and make mistakes. If the instructions, methods or any part of the assigned job isn't clear, we shouldn't hesitate to find how to get the job done safely and correctly. We're not dense for asking, but dense for not asking.

## **POOR HOUSEKEEPING** –

As we have discussed many times in the past, when upper management, outside guests or other visitors enter your domain, what they see initially helps them form their opinion of the attitude that you have toward cleanliness, quality, production and safety. Poor housekeeping creates all types of hazards. A well maintained work area sets the standards for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves pride and safety.

## **IGNORING SAFETY PROCEDURES** –

Initially not following safety and work procedures can endanger you and/or your fellow workers. You are paid to follow the companies' safety policies and not create your own. Casual outlooks about safety will only lead to a casualty.

## **MENTAL DISTRACTIONS** –

Bringing problems at home to work or day dreaming when you are working is a bad combination. Don't become a statistic because you failed to stay focused.

## **FAILURE TO PRE-PLAN YOUR WORK** –

Pre-plan your work and have an effective and efficient plan. "Plan your work and work your plan"