

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



September 21, 2009

Everyone is Responsible for Safety



You probably get tired each week of hearing safety issues, but this repetitious dialogue has helped to reduce the number of injuries in our system. Human nature shows that a periodic “heads up” on any type of issues, whether it be safety, management issues or other subjects, will keep our attention more on the subject. The 10 or 12 minutes that you allow us in your staff meetings weekly has been a great help in stressing the importance of safety awareness to the front.

Obviously, no matter how much time and effort we spend on stressing safety, there is no way that we can guard against all events that may cause an accident or incident. **Awareness and Attentiveness** to safety details is the greatest factor in reducing the potential for an incident or accident.

We have adopted a slogan that fits in with the subject of our newsletter this week that we use as much as possible, **“SAFETY IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY!”**

As employees, we should make the following tips a practice and assist each other (especially new employees) in developing these tips as an automatic or “rote” part of their daily functions. We should:

- Learn to work safely and follow the rules seriously. **“Lead by example.”** There is an adage that everyone is influenced by someone else (usually an unknown person), so it behooves us to practice the safety rules for ourselves and others.
- Recognize hazards and avoid them.
- Report all accidents, injuries and illness to your immediate supervisor immediately
- Inspect tools before each use to avoid an injury.
- Wear all assigned personal protective equipment.

As employers, management must be cognizant of the need and importance of safety for the system to function for the protection of all employees. Common sense and past experience shows us that fewer accidents mean more profits, less medical and lost time dollars, which all go to the “bottom line.”

**The safe being of all University employees is the ultimate goal.** The monetary benefits are the “tree decorations” for a successful and dedicated safety atmosphere. To achieve these goals, it is management’s responsibility to:

- Provide a safe and healthy workplace.
- Provide the proper personal protective equipment and follow-up with employees to see that they see it.
- Train employees in all safety procedures and how to identify hazards.

Following are some ideas of potential hazards that all employees, including management must be aware of on the job:

- Poor housekeeping results in the potential for slips, trips and falls.
- Improper handling of electricity can cause shocks, burns or fires.
- Poor material handling is the potentially an “open door” for back problems as well as other injuries.
- Tools and other equipment not maintained or with guards or shields left off can cause injuries.

Protection for our safe being is usually built into the equipment. For example:

- Guards, shields and tools are designed to keep our body parts from getting into the equipment.
- Insulation on electrical equipment protects us from shocks, burns or fire problems.
- Lockout/tagout assures us, if used, that equipment is de-energized before repairs are started.
- Personal protective equipment protects our body from hazards that we face while working on job assignments.

We have emergency action plans in effect in most all of our research units, on and off the campus. We never want to have to use them, but just in case we do, they are there:

- Be sure that everyone is familiar with alarms and evacuation routes and collection points.
- Be sure that everyone is familiar with how to notify emergency response personnel.

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**~FORGET THE HEARSE  
WITH  
SAFETY FIRST~**

**SAFETY IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY!!**