



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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## Safety Tips: Positive Safety Attitudes



Attitudes have much to do with the outcome of a situation. Farm safety is no different. The National Agricultural Statistics Service did a survey in 2002. The results were interesting and I want to share some of their findings:

- There was an estimate of 2.16 million farms in the U.S. that covered 941 million acres.
- There were also 1.19 million workers.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics documented 789 & 730 deaths in 1999 and 2002 respectively.
- The above stats. show that agriculture is third behind construction and transportation in agricultural deaths.
- The US Department of Agriculture in 2002 ranked the farming industry in second place with a fatality rate of 28 for each 100,000 workers, just behind the transportation industry.

Following are some hints and tips that represent ways to improve our attitudes toward our work:

### Take Safety Seriously-

We all must take safety seriously to:

- Avoid accidents that cause fires, explosions, or other dangers.
- Avoid accidents that can cause job-related injuries.
- Avoid exposure to hazardous substances that can lead to serious illness.
- Comply with MAFES and regulatory health regulations.
- Comply with company work rules, policies and procedures.

### A Positive Safety Attitude Makes the Most of Company Safety Tools and Training-

When you take safety seriously, you take advantage of the protections available on the job. The safety procedures, equipment, and information employers provide include:

- ✓ Work procedures such as lock/tag out.
- ✓ Using the proper personal protective equipment such as gloves, face shields or goggles, etc.
- ✓ Emergency planning and response programs such as alarms, evacuation plans, and eyewashes.
- ✓ Safety information such as chemical sales and material safety data sheets.
- ✓ Training periodicals on how to do your job safely.

### Carelessness Is the Most Common Cause of Workplace Accidents-

Unsafe acts are often the reason for accidents. These occur when we take attitudes such as these below:

- ❖ **Complacency-** Doing a job many times, so that it seems to become repetitious. This is when an accident can happen.

- ❖ **Being upset or mad-** You can't let emotions get in your way of doing your job correctly. Distractions can be dangerous.
- ❖ **Fatigue-** Being tired can slow down your physical and mental reactions, causing your mind to wander.
- ❖ **Recklessness-** Taking chances with tools, machinery, chemicals, or work procedures is foolish and dangerous.
- ❖ **Being afraid to ask questions-** Training and work procedures do cover a lot of ground - sometimes too much to remember. It's always been said that we should ask questions because we will never learn if we don't ask, and besides that, it shows that we are smarter to know what we didn't know.

### Take a Positive Attitude Toward Safety-

- ❖ Take personal responsibility for your own safety and the safety of your co-workers.
- ❖ Pay attention to your training.
- ❖ Follow **Every** step in **Every** job **Every** time.
- ❖ Know and follow the safety rules.
- ❖ Use the required personal protective equipment.
- ❖ Give work your full attention.
- ❖ Keep an eye out for hazards. Ask "What could go wrong here?"
- ❖ Put your personal feelings and problems aside while you're working.
- ❖ Urge your co-workers to follow safety rules.
- ❖ Know what to do in an emergency.
- ❖ Ask questions about any procedure precautions that are not clear.
- ❖ Report any safety hazards you can't fix.
- ❖ Save fooling around or "horseplay" for your own personal time.

### Look for Opportunities to Improve Workplace Safety-

Demonstrate that you have the right attitude toward safety by:

- ✓ Being a leader in promoting good safety habits.
- ✓ Look for possible safety infractions and potential situations that interfere with good safety habits.
- ✓ Promote good housekeeping habits.
- ✓ Promote good safety habits in supervisory meetings.

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