



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Keys to Improving Employees' Attitudes About Safety



The basic key to any program, whether it be safety, economics or human resource involvement, is the positive outlook and involvement of all employees in the organization. A positive attitude is the first, and in my opinion, one of the most important personality traits that go into making any type of group or organization successful in their endeavors.

Even though, again in my opinion, in most cases we observe that positivity is inherent in most all of our departments. That is not to say that there isn't always room to improve on our attitudes, which will make our jobs more interesting and less troublesome.

Today, we shall discuss some keys that can help to improve these attitudes even more.

Take Safety Seriously-

Every employee should take safety seriously in order to:

- Avoid accidents that can cause fires, explosions or other dangers.
- Avoid accidents that cause job-related accidents.
- Avoid exposure to hazardous substances that can lead to serious illnesses.

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

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

- Engineering controls, such as ventilation.
- Work procedures, such as lockout/tagout.
- Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves, hard hats and protective eyewear.
- Emergency planning and response programs, such as alarms, evacuation plans and eyewashes.
- Safety information such as chemical labels and safety data sheets.
- Training on how to do your job safely.

Carelessness is the Most Common Cause of Workplace Accidents-

Unsafe acts are often a factor in accidents. They result when people take attitudes like these toward safety:

- **Complacency** – After doing a job for so long it becomes “rote” or repetitious, it leaves one to think that the functions are automatic. This is when the potential for mistakes or personal injury can come in to play, as we disregard the steps or procedures in doing the job, which can lead to the potential for compromising the quality of our work as well as the safety features. We are leaving ourselves open for poor job performance and the risk of an injury.

- **Being upset and angry** – Emotions will cause you to have problems of doing the job correctly and safely. Emotions can cause distractions, which can lead to accidents and possible injury to you or the equipment.
- **Fatigue** – Being tired can slow down your mental reactions, causing your mind to wander.
- **Recklessness** – Taking chances with tools, machinery, chemicals, work procedures or taking “short cuts” can be dangerous and foolish.
- **Being afraid to ask questions** – Training and work procedures cover a lot of ground- sometimes too much to remember. Always ask if you aren't sure of what to do or how to do it. This shows that you are smart enough to know what you don't know.

Take a Positive Attitude Toward Safety-

- Take personal responsibility for your safety and that of your co-workers.
- Pay attention to training.
- Follow every step in every job every time.
- Know and follow all safety rules.
- Use required PPE.
- Give work your full attention.
- Keep an eye out for hazards. Ask, “What could go wrong here?”
- Put your personal feelings and problems aside when you're working.
- Urge your co-worker to follow safety procedures.
- Know what to do in an emergency.
- Ask questions about any procedure or precaution that's not clear.
- Report any safety hazards you can't fix.
- Don't fool around. **(Refrain from horseplay!)**

Look for Opportunities to Improve Workplace Safety-

Show that you have the right attitude toward safety by:

- Volunteering for safety committees or other work related committees.
- Take an active attitude toward safety in supervisor and other job related meetings.
- Propose safety improvements in supervisor meetings or when you see a potential for an improvement.
- Cooperate with safety inspections and other monitoring meetings.
- Set yourself as an example or role model of having a good safety attitude in front of others - and especially new employees.

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**WORKING TOGETHER GETS THE JOB
DONE SAFELY**

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**DON'T WORK ALONE- WATCH FOR YOUR
CO-WORKERS!!!**