

MAFES Dawg Tracks

January 16, 2017



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*Common Sense
&
Accident Prevention*

Generally, common sense isn't an inherited trait. We may be born with the undeveloped trait and, as we grow older, we cultivate it from other people and our own experiences.

Maintaining an awareness of our environment, self-preservation, and a genuine concern for our fellow workers are all factors that help us to cultivate good common sense. Contrary to popular opinions, all workers can pretty much prevent themselves from getting involved in accidents by observing others. Observe your colleagues' risk taking and try to learn from their mistakes, as opposed as to you being the one who learns from an injury.

Experts say that 80% of all accidents are caused by unsafe acts on the part of employees; not unsafe conditions. By law, we are required to furnish a safe and healthy workplace. It is still our responsibility to be aware of our work environments and to follow safe work practices. Actually, if we stay focused on work projects and practice good common sense, the work will go smoother and we will reduce the potential for an accident.

As mentioned above, statistics show that most accidents are caused by unsafe acts, including:

Being in a Hurry-

Sometimes our concentrations are to do a job quickly, rather than safely and rationally. It is more prudent to work at a job with acceptable timeliness and to work at staying safe. Staying safe is pretty good insurance that we will make it home every night.

Taking Chances-

Daring behavior or intentional disregard for safe work practices can put our total work force in jeopardy. We should always follow all established work rules and watch out for our fellow workers. Regarding the subject of taking chances, please refer to "horseplay" which in most cases leads to someone getting hurt and/or ending up in a disciplinary situation.

Being Preoccupied-

Preoccupation, in my opinion, is one of the biggest problems that we have today in the workplace.

Preoccupation or "day dreaming" entails employees' thinking about what is up after work or what's in store for the weekend. I also, again just my opinion, think that the abuse of cell phone use during working hours is absolutely the worst of all the negative traits. It is commonly seen in work situations where an employee is either talking on the phone or texting someone. When questioned about their use, they become indignant and think that you're infringing on their privacy. Old "common sense" or "horse sense" will tell you that if you have distractions or problems outside of work, you can't do your best job. Non-focusing work habits will lead to two things, both of which are bad: Your work quality will be inferior and/or you will put yourself at risk for an injury.

Having a Negative Attitude-

Anger and other negative attitudes will always over rule rational and caution. Coach "Bear" Bryant had a host of "Bearisms" (his sayings for all things involving football), including "I want my boys to be lean, mean and hostile and arrive on Saturdays in a bad mood." That works well for football, but doesn't fit in with farm workers or other types of workers. A "short fuse" or "flying off the handle" can be very dangerous and potentially hazardous at work, but also can be bad outside of work. Bad moods and/or negative attitudes need to be kept in check; they not only affect you but also your co-workers around you. When I was working in the apparel industry and had a situation to arise, we always said to go outside or ask others to go outside and "kick a bush" to level their moods.

Failing to Look for Hidden Hazards-

In our MSU environment, we continuously advertise our adopted safety slogan, "**Safety is Everyone's Responsibility.**" As we all move about in our respective daily work tasks or projects we should constantly be aware of potential hazards that lurk all around us. You just never know when we might discover a potential hazard that could very well save an injury to a fellow worker or to yourself.

**SAFE MINDS + SAFE ACTIONS
WILL RESULT IN A
SAFE RETURN HOME AT NIGHT**

*** ***** ***

**A SAFE EMPLOYEE
IS A HAPPY EMPLOYEE!!**