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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
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*Safety Tips:
Improving Employees'
Attitudes about Safety*

The basic key to any program, whether it is safety, economics, or human resource involvement, is the positive outlook and involvement of employees in the organization. Several years ago, I attended an industrial management seminar. One item discussed that I haven't forgotten is the five most important things that employees look for in their employment. Number one was to be informed of company matters and to feel a part of the company as opposed to feeling as "just another employee." Salary and benefits were number three on the list.

A positive attitude is the first and, in my opinion, one of the most important personality traits to have in making any group or business successful in their endeavors.

I believe that the majority of our departments all are positive, but there is always room for improvement. Here we will discuss the keys to help improve attitudes about safety in our system:

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 UNIVERSITY SAFETY TOOLS AND TRAINING-

Taking safety seriously offers the advantage of protection on the job. Safety equipment, procedures, and information that employers offer include:

- Engineering controls, such as ventilation
- Work procedures, such as lock out/tag out
- Personal protective equipment such as hard hats, gloves, protective eyewear.
- Emergency planning and response programs, such as eye wash stations, alarms, and evacuations plans.
- Safety information such as chemical labels and safety data sheets.
- Training on the job so that you can perform safely.

CARELESSNESS is the MOST COMMON CAUSE OF WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS-

Unsafe acts are often factors in accidents. They result when people have attitudes like the following:

Complacency – Doing a job so long it becomes repetitious leaves one to think that his functions are automatic. This attitude leaves one open for careless mistakes and possibly an injury. We should all strive for good job performance and be conscious of safety on the job.

Being upset and angry – Emotions can cause distractions, possibly making mistakes on your job, maybe leading to an accident with 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 covers lot of ground-sometimes too much to remember. Always ask if you aren't sure of what it is 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 the safety rules.
- ✓ Use required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ✓ Give work your full attention.
- ✓ Keep an eye for hazards – ask, "What could go wrong here?"
- ✓ Put your personal feelings and problems aside when you're working.
- ✓ Urge your co-workers to follow safety procedures.
- ✓ Know what to do in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Ask questions about any procedure or precaution that's not clear.
- ✓ Report any safety hazards that 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 work-related committees such as safety or others.
- Take an active attitude toward safety in supervisor and job-related meetings.
- Propose safety improvements in supervisor meetings or when you see a potential situation for 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-especially new employees.

**WORKING TOGETHER GETS
THE JOB DONE SAFELY**

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