

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*Safety is Everyone's
Responsibility*

We have attempted to plant this slogan into all of MAFES and EXTENSION employees, hoping that we shall remain conscience of maintaining all our areas as a safe haven to work and perform our respective duties.

According to the National Safety Council's (NSC) injury facts for the year of 2001, costs for workplace injuries amounted to approximately \$131.2 billion dollars and this didn't include the disruptions of day-to-day living, interruption of family life and personal vacation time.

We want to expand on the slogan of "**Safety is Everyone's Responsibility**", discussing the ways and means of how we can better perform and practice to treat safety as an integral part of our jobs.

First of all, we need to think about how accidents happen:

- ✓ The vast majority of accidents can be avoided.
- ✓ The very best way to avoid accidents is to remain conscious of safety in all that we do.
- ✓ Following are a few reasons why accidents happen:
 - ~Carelessness
 - ~Lack of training
 - ~Not paying attention to your work
 - ~Having a "Know-it-all" attitude
 - ~Taking shortcuts
 - ~Being overtired or fatigued
 - ~Being in too much of a hurry
 - ~Allowing stress or emotions to interfere with your job
- ✓ Most accidents can be prevented if you treat safety as an important responsibility.

Key Safety Tips-

- ✓ **Have the right safety attitude** – Be positive in knowing and practicing the safety rules, looking for potential hazards and ways to prevent them from becoming an accident or incident.
- ✓ **Practice safe work habits-** Set a good example for your fellow employees, such as wearing the proper PPE when required, not removing guards and shields on equipment.
- ✓ **Come to work fresh, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed eager to work-** Reporting to work sleepy, tired or bringing home problems to work with you all of which lead you to being distracted can could possibly lead to an accident.
- ✓ **Think before you act-** Plan your work-thinking out all the possible potential problems and how to avoid or mitigate them should they become a reality and how to protect you or your fellow workers from them.
- ✓ **Keep your mind on your work-** Think about your work project and not what you plan to do after work or a possible minor conflict with another co-worker.
- ✓ **Avoid horseplay** – "Leave the horseplay to the horses." Seldom does anything positive result from acts of horseplay. In many cases, someone ends up getting hurt physically or emotionally, possibly putting their job in jeopardy.

Poor Safety Attitudes –

Poor attitudes can get you into trouble in your job before you realize it or are even conscious of your actions:

- **"This job is simple"** – This trait or attitude usually results in not paying attention to work and possibly making a mistake.
- **"I don't have time to think about safety. I need to get this job done quickly."** – Hurrying a job or a work task usually results in making a mistake and/or enhancing it to potential for an accident.
- **"I'll do this my way"** – No one respects a "know-it-all" or a bullhead – This type of attitude puts you and your fellow workers at risk and into "harm's way" for the risk of a possible accident.
- **"I can figure this out myself"** – This attitude is similar to the person in a meeting and not understanding exactly what the speaker is trying to get across- either embarrassed or a fear of asking out in a group setting. Ask your supervisor for help, rather than risking the potential of proceeding and not doing the job correctly.
- **"Accidents will happen, no matter what I do"** -Totally untrue -This attitude can very easily get you and your fellow workers in a potential "world of hurt," either putting yourselves at risk or jeopardizing the safety and efficiency of the equipment. As Coach "Bear Bryant" use to say when you attempt to throw a pass-3 things can happen and 2 of them are bad. So goes this faulty safety attitude- #1 either you and your fellow workers are at risk and #2 the quality of your work is in jeopardy and #3 ask, be sure of the method to do it right and then you have accomplished the goal- of completing the job successfully, safely, and with the acceptable quality standards expected.

Other General Safety Tips

- ✓ Keep your work area clean and free of clutter.
- ✓ Carefully inspect your tools each time you begin to use them.
- ✓ Pay attention to warning signs and near misses. The next time you might not be so lucky.
- ✓ Don't bypass safety devices. If a guard or shield or other parts are missing from equipment, try to replace it or report it to the supervisor so that he can arrange for replacements.
- ✓ If you're new on the job, be sure to take advantage of all training available. Heed all the instructions so that you will be more proficient and more valuable in your work.
- ✓ Eat right, get sufficient sleep and don't let stress distract you from your job.
- ✓ Wear the appropriate clothing for the job. Don't wear loose fitting clothing, jewelry, and keep long hair tied up to avoid getting caught in machinery. Wear shoes or boots with sturdy non-slip soles.
- ✓ Be on the lookout for potential hazards. Report them to your supervisor.

The MSU "GOLDEN RULE"
SAFETY IS OUR VITAL TOOL
ALERT TODAY ⇔ ⇔ ALIVE TOMORROW

Written by Ted Gordon
For more info contact: MAFES / MSU-EXTENSION
Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control (662) 325-3204
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www.kemi.com/safety/resources/safety_everyone_responsibility