

BEHAVIORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ACCIDENTS

Accidents occur for many reasons. While your employer has the ultimate responsibility for providing a safe workplace, you must also do your part to prevent accidents.

Consider the behaviors described below. Avoiding these behaviors can help prevent accidents and keep you safe on the job.

- ❑ **Taking shortcuts:** Every day we make decisions we hope will make the job faster and more efficient. Don't take shortcuts that risk your own safety or that of others.
- ❑ **Being over confident:** Confidence is a good thing. Overconfidence is too much of a good thing. "It'll never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to the use of improper tools or methods in your work, which can lead to an injury.
- ❑ **Starting a task with incomplete instructions:** To do the job safely and right the first time, you need complete information. Don't be shy about asking for explanations about work procedures and safety precautions.
- ❑ **Poor housekeeping:** When clients, managers or safety professionals walk through a job site, housekeeping is an accurate indicator of everyone's attitude about quality, production and safety. Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types, while good housekeeping results in a safer workplace.
- ❑ **Ignoring safety procedures:** Purposely failing to observe safety procedures can endanger you and your co-workers. Be sure to always follow company safety policies. Talk to your supervisor if you have suggestions for improving safety policies. Being "casual" about safety can lead to a casualty.
- ❑ **Mental distractions from work:** Dropping your mental guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures. Don't become a statistic because you took your eyes off the task at hand "just for a second."
- ❑ **Failure to inspect:** Beginning work without carefully inspecting the machinery, tools and safety equipment you plan to use is a recipe for trouble. Ensure that your equipment is in shape to safely complete your task. Immediately report defective equipment to your supervisor.

This Toolbox Talk provides general guidelines for voluntary use by employers and is not intended to provide all necessary safety information and precautions for specific workplace operations and situations. The American Supply Association assumes no responsibility or liability for the use of the information provided.

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