Safety Matters

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News & Notes

WHY DO ACCIDENTS HAPPEN?

Here are some of the reasons:

- **Complacency.** No matter how many times you've done a job, if you take your safety for granted, you can get hurt.
- **Inadequate information.** If you don't know what to do or how to do it, there's a good chance you'll do it wrong. So listen to job instructions. Read equipment manuals, container labels, and material safety data sheets. And if you're not sure about something, ask!
- **Poorly maintained tools or equipment.** Don't use unsafe tools or equipment. Report them and get a replacement.
- **Not looking where you're going or not paying attention to what you're doing.** To always be safe on the job you have to be constantly alert. You need to keep looking for hazards and anticipating anything that could go wrong.
- **Not taking hazards seriously enough.** All work hazards can hurt you in some way. Even a minor injury can interfere with your work and your life—and cause you a lot of pain.
- **Fooling around.** Protecting your safety is serious. There's no room for horseplay.
- **Carelessness.** Just like not keeping your eyes and mind on the road can lead to a traffic accident, not keeping your eyes and mind on the job can lead to a work accident. So always avoid distractions.
- **Fatigue.** If you come to work tired, you could leave work in an ambulance. So get enough sleep before each workday.

"Hey...how come you guys never report any safety hazards?"

Riddle of the Month

A boy went to the dentist to get his cavity filled. The boy was the dentist's son, but the dentist was not the boy's father. How can this be?

Answer on Page 2 in Safety Bits and Pieces

Safety Tip of the Month

Pesticides cling to fruits and vegetables even after a water washing. It is best to scrub the produce with a vegetable brush under running water. To be extra sure, use a mild detergent. Soak apples and pears in water containing one-fourth cut of vinegar before scrubbing.

Safety Is No Accident

Do you know how to prevent accidents?

Test your knowledge about preventing workplace accidents by choosing T (True) or F (False) for these statements:

	T	F
1. Most accidents are caused by unsafe conditions.	❑	❑
2. If you see a hazard you can't fix, report it when you have a break or at the end of your shift.	❑	❑
3. If you're not sure how to do something, try to figure it out yourself before asking.	❑	❑
4. It's safe to take occasional shortcuts if you've been doing a job for a long time.	❑	❑
5. It's best not to think about what could go wrong as you work; have the confidence that if you're careful, nothing will go wrong.	❑	❑
6. If you've been on the job for a while, you shouldn't have to ask a lot of safety questions.	❑	❑
7. It's management's responsibility to prevent workplace accidents, not yours.	❑	❑
8. You can prevent most accidents by keeping alert to hazards and paying careful attention to your work.	❑	❑
9. Being involved in an accident at work is really a matter of chance—being in the wrong place at the wrong time.	❑	❑
10. It's a good idea to inspect your work area, materials, and equipment each day before you begin working to make sure they're safe.	❑	❑

Answers:

(1) False. Most accidents are caused by unsafe acts.
(2) False. Report it immediately and take steps to warn co-workers of the hazard.
(3) False. When you're not sure of the correct and safe way to proceed with your work, check first with your supervisor.
(4) False. It's never safe to ignore established procedures and take shortcuts.
(5) False. You *should* think about what could go wrong so that you can be prepared to avoid trouble at any time.
(6) False. Always ask when you're in doubt about anything related to your safety.
(7) False. You share responsibility for keeping the workplace safe.
(8) True.
(9) False. Accidents are caused by unsafe acts and unsafe conditions—both of which are preventable.
(10) True.

Take Safety Awareness Home

You are alert to safety a work, but do you take that awareness home with you? More serious injuries happen at home than on the job. Home accidents kill one person every 26 minutes and disable another person every 10 seconds. This equals 27 million injuries per year.

Prevent Accidents

Report all safety-related incidents

An important way to help prevent accidents is to report any safety incidents that occur. When accidents are reported, they can be investigated and the problems that caused them can be corrected. But when incidents go unreported, things don't get fixed, and the same situation could occur again.

The bad news is that people sometimes fail to report incidents because:

- ☒ **They don't want to get blamed.** People don't want to get into trouble or get co-workers in trouble. But remember that the reason for looking into safety problems isn't to blame people, it's to eliminate hazards.
- ☒ **They don't think it is important enough to mention.** If no one was hurt and there was no damage, then what's the point of reporting an incident, right? Wrong! Next time somebody *could* get hurt.
- ☒ **They don't want to take the time to "get involved."** People think they're too busy to waste time reporting an incident as long as nobody was hurt. Or they figure that if the accident didn't actually happen to them, they're not involved. It's somebody else's problem. But accident prevention doesn't work that way. Everybody has to get involved. Otherwise the next accident victim could be you.

Notable Quotation

"Develop serenity and quiet attitudes through your conversation. Depending on the words we use and the tone in which we use them, we can talk ourselves into being nervous, high strung, and upset. By our speech, we can also achieve quiet reactions. Talk peaceful to be peaceful."
Norman Vincent Peale

On the Lighter Side

A twelve year old boy was doing his violin practice at home and the torturous noise was making the dog howl. Upstairs, the boy's father was trying to work on the computer. After putting up with the combined racket of violin and dog for 20 minutes, the father eventually called out: "Dylan. Can't you play something the dog doesn't know?"

Safety Tidbit

It's estimated that it would take 1.2 million mosquito bites to drain all the blood from the average adult human being.

Power Tool Safety

Tips for preventing accidents and injuries

If you've ever witnessed somebody slice off a finger with a power tool, you know there's a lot at stake with power tool safety. Injuries from these tools can be severe and permanent.

Here are 3 reasons for most power tool injuries according to the Power Tool Institute:

1. **Loss of concentration.** Operators may stop paying attention to their work if they repeat the same actions with a power tool over and over again.
2. **Unexpected events.** A kickback or other sudden problem with a fast-moving power tool can be dangerous, especially if the operator doesn't have training to expect the unexpected—and to know how to react safely.
3. **Inexperience and overconfidence** is a hazardous combination if the operator doesn't appreciate the hazards and understand the importance of being careful at all times when using a power tool.

It is recommended that operators observe 5 rules to prevent accidents and injuries:

1. **Keep all tools in good condition** with regular maintenance.
2. **Use the right tool** for the job.
3. **Inspect each tool** for damage before use, and do not use damaged tools.
4. **Operate tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.**
5. **Use the right personal protective equipment.**

Safety Bits & Pieces

6 BASIC FIRST-AID STEPS

Memorize this sequence of events so that you'll be able to respond quickly and effectively if a co-worker gets hurt:

1. **Check to see if the victim is breathing.** If the victim is not breathing CPR/resuscitation efforts should be started by a trained individual while emergency medical help is summoned.
2. **Call for medical help immediately.** Explain the kind of injury and where the victim is. Be calm and act fast.
3. **Bring help to the victim,** not the victim to the help.
4. **Don't move an injured person** unless it's necessary to save his or her life.
5. **Know where first-aid kits are** kept.
6. **Keep the victim calm and comfortable** if you're not sure what else to do, and wait for the professional help you called.

MORE ON FIRST AID...

When you get a cut or scrape on the job, treat it immediately. Even a scratch, left untreated, can get infected or result in blood poisoning. Don't delay treatment until break time or until you get home. Here are some tips from the American Medical Association on the care of minor cuts and abrasions:

☒ Never put your mouth over a wound or breathe on it. This just gives germs an opportunity to infect it.

☒ Don't allow fingers or any soiled material, such as a used handkerchief, to touch the wound.

☒ Immediately clean the area with soap and warm water, wiping away from the wound.

☒ Hold a sterile pad firmly over the wound until the bleeding stops.

☒ Bandage the wound and replace the bandage as necessary to keep the area clean and dry.

Riddle of the Month Answer:

The boy was really the dentist's son and the dentist was really the boy's parent. The dentist was the boy's mother.