

Safety Talks



BE A SAFETY LEADER

A contributing cause for many slips, trips and falls is the presence of a hazard already known about by staff. Unfortunately, it often isn't until someone is injured that the hazard is corrected or repaired.

Being around people who promote and practice safety creates a safer environment for everyone. People who are careless, don't feel they have time or don't understand their role in safety all create an unsafe work environment.

New employees take their cues from watching long term employees. No matter your position, you can be a safety leader by following safety rules and encouraging others to do the same. Safety committee members make outstanding mentors to model safe behavior and guide new employees toward a safer attitude.



Safety Sam Says...

No matter how well designed your safety program is, it cannot succeed without the efforts of safety leaders. Anyone can be a safety leader - it's just this simple:

- See a spill? Clean it up
- Cluttered workspace? Time to get organized
- Loose rugs or cords? Straighten and secure them so no one trips
- Reaching something above your head? Use a ladder or step stool - never climb on chairs
- Entering a dark room? Turn on the lights
- See hazards? Report them

SPEAK UP

How can you prevent injuries? Often the people aware of an issue don't report it because they don't know how or where to report or because they don't realize reporting the situation can keep a coworker safe. It takes your whole team to keep your workplace safe and free from potentially hazards.

That means when you see anything unsafe in your workplace, you need to speak up and report it. Whether it is an e-mail, form or online system, each district has a process already in place for reporting hazards and requesting repairs. If you are not familiar with the how to do this, please ask your supervisor to show you the process so you can report any potential concerns you see.

Near-miss Nancy Asks...

If you have an incident, even if you don't get hurt, please take the time to complete an *Employee Incident Report*. You may prevent someone else from getting hurt.



Did You Know?

Even organizations with a poor safety record can turn things around and successfully change their work environments.

How?

By setting expectations for staff that model a safe workplace:

- Hazard reporting
- Incident reporting
- Safe behavior
- Responsibility
- Safety training

Once expectations are set, train staff on the new safety program and then hold them accountable if they fail to meet these expectations.

Supervisors can encourage better safety practices by providing positive feedback when they see employees following the safety protocols.

Mentors and safety committee members play a part by modeling safe behavior.

