



## 083: The Safety Attitude

### *Myths vs. truth*

**Myth:** Safety is someone else's responsibility. I just work here.

**Truth:** Safety is everyone's job.

**Myth:** Safety is a bunch of rules. I can do anything the rules don't prohibit.

**Truth:** The rules aren't there to punish you, they aren't perfect, and they can't cover every contingency. Safety is a matter of doing the job in a way that is safe. Coming up with novel ways to hurt yourself is not a mark of maturity or intelligence.

**Myth:** The foreman and safety director enforce the safety rules, so if they aren't looking, the rules don't apply.

**Truth:** The real enforcers of safety rules are injuries and death—why break the rules?

**Myth:** I shouldn't have to practice safety unless everyone else does.

**Truth:** If other people are foolish, that doesn't mean you must also be foolish.

**Myth:** Safety meetings are just a break from work.

**Truth:** Safety meetings are about helping you not get injured or killed.

**Myth:** Safety gear is just a hassle. Hardhats and safety glasses are a bother.

**Truth:** Getting your eye pierced with a copper wire is a hassle and a bother, to say the least. So are many other potential injuries.

**Myth:** Safety rules slow you down, and the company doesn't really want to sacrifice production.

**Truth:** Work accidents slow down work, and create time losses that are not recoverable. Your management has approved each safety rule with good reason, and all jobs are scheduled with time allowed for safety practices. If the schedule is off, work this out with your foreman rather than endangering yourself and others.

**Myth:** My foreman is talking about the other guy. It can't happen to me.

**Truth:** People with this attitude are the ones most at risk.

### *Thoughts to keep in mind*

The slogan "Safety is No Accident" means you eliminate accidents by purposefully putting safety in the front of your mind.

You are your brother's keeper, or sister's keeper as the case may be. This industry is a very dangerous one, and all of us must look out for each other. When you alert your coworker to a safety concern, the implication is not that the other person is deficient. The expectation is that you are doing your part in keeping both of you safe.

The intelligent and mature person is always willing to benefit from the good safety advice of others. If someone helps you see you were doing an unsafe act, thank that person. The life just saved may have been your own.

Keep yourself physically prepared, so you can stay alert. Get your rest. Don't take illegal drugs. Use other drugs, such as liquor and over the counter medications, responsibly and not on the job.

### *What to look for, what to ask*

Look for unsafe conditions when entering an area or starting a task.

### *Discussion leader duties for this session:*

Think of some safety attitudes, both good and bad, you have observed in your work. Be prepared to tell the group about these during the discussion and ask them for comments on what those attitudes may cause—good or bad.

### *What this Safety Talk covers:*

Attitudes, concepts, ideas, and perceptions that make the difference between being a safe worker and being one who is a danger to self and others.

### *Discussion notes :*

