



Inspection of Working Places

I am a couple weeks slow on completing this Safety Topic. I have been busy attending meetings and conducting & participating in training classes.

By accident, I have to admit, the theme of the training that the aggregate division went through this year was inspection of working places, equipment, vehicles, etc. It wasn't planned that way, but after we were into the training, it became obvious that nearly all of the instructors covered the topic of pre-operational inspection of whatever you are intending to work with. And it makes good common sense. What better way to understand your equipment and feel confident that it will perform the task that you are asking it to do.

This definitely applies to our ready-mix division, to the drivers and the plant people.

DOT regulations require that all commercial vehicles must be inspected before each shift. Can anyone identify every inspection point of their vehicle from memory? The vehicle inspection is a part of the CDL licensing exam, but it is real easy to miss some of the inspection points without a memory aid of some sort.

Here is a little test of your knowledge:

1. What is the most important reason for doing vehicle inspections?
2. What three kinds of emergency equipment must you have?
3. What is the minimum tread depth for front tires?
4. Why put the starter switch key in your pocket during the pretrip inspection?
5. What should the wheel bearing seals be checked for?
6. Can you bring the "Vehicle inspection memory aid" with you to the test?

These were all questions from the training materials when I got my CDL. The answer to the last question is **YES** because it is extremely difficult to remember everything that needs to be checked. The answer to the first question is **SAFETY**. I rest my case.

It is equally important that plant people

inspect their equipment prior to the start of the shift. And this applies to maintenance personnel as well. Was the cutting or welding equipment inspected prior to use? An employee was burned last year while working inside of an aggregate bin. He was using a torch to cut metal, the hose ruptured and caused a fire. How good was the inspection that was performed?

We can carry this discussion out to the jobsite as well. Why is it important to inspect the jobsites prior to starting work? **** SAFETY ****.

I ask that every one make an effort to better inspect their working place, their equipment, and their vehicles in 2003. We can work safer with just a little extra effort. I hesitate to use the term "accident"

Incident Investigations

because it implies a situation over which we have no control. Very few of our incidents are "accidents"! For the purposes of this article I will use incident and accident interchangeably. But, incidents do happen and when they do, we need to make an effort to learn something from them. If we do not correct a problem that was a cause of the incident, or if we fail to change some procedure after someone is hurt, then that definitely is no accident on the second occurrence.

To learn from our mistakes takes effort to understand what happened in the first place and takes cooperation from everyone involved. That is one of main reasons that incident reports are completed after every incident. That is why a review of the recent incidents is encourage during tool box talks or other safety gatherings.

We should be doing incident investigations after near misses, as well. If we are, maybe an incident can be avoided.

Incident investigations are not being conducted to place blame, but to help us determine what went wrong.

It is important to complete the incident

Inside this issue:

Inspection of Working Places

Incident Investigations

For What it is Worth!

- Why is there handicap parking in front of the skating rink?
- Why do we leave vehicles worth thousands of dollars parked in the driveway and fill the garage with junk?
- How come we never see the headline, 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?
- Politics describes the process very well: in Latin, 'poli' means 'many' and tics are 'blood sucking creatures'.
- Why do you call the man who invests your money a 'broker'?
- Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor and dishwashing soap made with real lemons?
- Why do doctors call what they do 'practice'?
- Why does the sun lighten your hair and darken you skin?
- When the taste of dog food is new and improved, who tested it?



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Safety is no accident!

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

please sign below as an indication that the material was read:

Multiple horizontal lines for signing.

Incident Investigations continued

investigations immediately while details are fresh. Where major property damage or injury occurs, call on Terry or me, if you need us.

Remember: **What happened?, When did it happen? How and why did it happen? How can we prevent it from happening again?**

Send me your suggests for future Safety Topics!

