



“Our Work Shows Pride, With Safety As Our Guide”

IRVING MATERIALS, INC.

Safety Topics

Keys to Staying Safe

People instinctively seek to avoid pain and death. (A possible exception may be the people we see on Funniest Home Videos and Extreme Sports programs) Yet, when we are at work, how many people have we seen take shortcuts and unnecessary risks to perform a task? Why do they do it? Have they been trained to do it right? Do they have the tools to do the job the right way? You see, we have choices that we can make every day. What are your eyes, hands, health and life worth? Are you willing to risk an injury to “save a minute?”

Have you seen a bad accident happen to a co-worker? Chances are that the incident could have been avoided if the risk would have been identified and actions had been taken to eliminate the hazard. There are two important things that can have an influence on what happens: knowledge and attitude.

Terry Jones and I, with the support of the management of imi, work hard to make sure everyone has the training and knowledge and tools to do their job properly. Imi has always been top drawer in providing the tools to do our jobs. So now we are at a point where a good attitude can make all the difference. If you have the training and tools but choose to take a shortcut anyway, everything else may as well been thrown out the window. The work we do can be dangerous.

Many of us spend a lot of time driving down the highway and that is where more than 42,000 were killed and over 2,000,000 were injured in 2004 (the latest year for statistics). We have to stay alert to the dangers!

Safety rules and procedures are written to protect you from harm. They are not written to make your work more uncomfortable or inconvenient. If you have the knowledge and tools and still choose to ignore the safety rules, then you have an attitude that is plac-

ing not only you but your co-workers in danger. If you have the knowledge to determine if a situation is unsafe, take the appropriate actions to correct the situation or notify those who can.

We are not perfect. Even the best of us can forget or make errors in judgment. To maximize job safety, we have to look out for one another. If someone tells you that you are not working in a safe manner, don't get angry or defensive. They are looking out for your safety and well being.

It is not enough to know the right way to do something, you have to follow through and do the right thing. Remember, attitude affects behavior. Have the right attitude toward safety and make the right choices. The life you save may be your own or a co-worker's.

The following quote is by Charles Swindoll: *“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is*



more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace

for that day. We cannot change our past... We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convince that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... We are in charge of our Attitude.”

Let's keep a positive attitude about SAFETY!

For What It Is Worth! St. Peter and the Cabbie—

A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the cabbie, St. Peter invites him to pick up a silk robe and a golden staff and to proceed into Heaven.

A preacher is next in line behind the cabbie and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says, "Okay, we'll let you in, but take that cotton robe and wooden staff."

The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a golden staff and a silk robe. Surely I rate higher than a cabbie."

St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "This is heaven and up here, we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabbie drove his taxi, people prayed."

Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

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Words of Wisdom:

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.
 - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

Please sign below as an indication that the material was read:
 Please include any suggestions that you may have, as well!

Off-the-job injuries outpacing gains in workplace safety

More spent on trauma than any other health condition

- Exerts from a News Release from National Safety Council— Itasca, IL – Contrary to popular belief, today's workers are safer on the job than they are at home or in their communities. According to the National Safety Council, recent gains in lowering workplace death rates – down 17 percent since 1992 – have been undone by the rate of fatalities occurring off the job, up 14 percent in that same period. And while corporate America has made dramatic gains in workplace safety, businesses are losing money on accidents unrelated to the workplace.

"The business costs of off-the-job accidents is staggering when you take into account lost wages and productivity, medical and disability payments, and training for new employees," said Alan C. McMillan, president and CEO of the National Safety Council.

According to 2004 National Safety Council statistics twice as many workers – or 6.8 million – were seriously injured while off the job than were injured while working. And of the 49,000 injury-related deaths in 2004 involving workers, roughly 90 percent occurred while employees were off the job.

In 2004, the cost of employee injuries – both on and off the job – was more than \$330 billion. Nearly 60% -- or \$200 billion – was for injuries to employees who were off the job. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, more is spent by private health insurance on medical care associated with trauma and poisoning for people of working age than for any other health condition including cancer, heart conditions, mental disorders or upper respiratory conditions and asthma.

In addition, off-the-job injuries accounted for employers losing 165 million days of production time, compared with 80 million lost work days as a result of workplace injuries.

The National Safety Council estimates that off-the-job injuries and fatalities cost U.S. businesses almost \$200 billion annually in lost productivity. Council research shows 9 out of 10 fatalities and nearly two-thirds of disabling injuries to workers each year occur off the job. According to data from the 2005-2006 edition of the council's "Injury Facts" an estimated 62,100 fatalities occurred in the home and community in 2004 – translating to about 56 percent of all recorded injury-related deaths.

The impact on deaths and injuries in U.S. homes and communities:

- About 1 out of 17 people experience an unintentional injury each year.
- About 32 percent of deaths and disabling injuries involve workers off the job.
- A fatal injury occurs in the home every 14 minutes and a disabling injury every 4 seconds.
- The five leading causes of fatal injury are falls; poisoning; choking; drowning; and fires, flames and smoke.
- Smoke inhalation accounts for a majority of deaths in home fires.
- A public fatal injury occurs every 21 minutes, and a disabling injury occurs every 4 seconds.
- The four leading fatal causes of death in public places are falls, poisoning, drowning and choking.
- People 65 and older suffer more than half of the fatalities in public injuries.

Source: National Safety Council, *"Injury Facts," 2005-2006 edition*