



Safety Topics

Volume 5, Issue 007

May 2007

Words of Wisdom

ATTITUDE

You can either complain that rose bushes have thorns— or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses!

Avoiding Accidents

We are all routinely exposed to hazards everyday in our work environment. There is some element of risk in anything that we do. The trick to avoiding situations that can result in a personal injury or property damage is to be aware of the hazards to which we are exposed, and then take appropriate actions to eliminate the hazards, avoid the hazards, or at least minimize the potential of the hazards.

Keep in mind that hazards are different for every situation and even for each person involved in a situation. It is impossible to definitively say that one size fits all.

An accident rarely happens because of a single event. Usually a whole chain of events are contributing to the outcome. Let's keep some basic principles in mind while performing our activities so that you or a co-worker are not injured or involved in an "accident".

- Attention to Surroundings -

Attention to what is going on around you is a vital part of every activity. Many tasks involve multiple activities taking place at the same time. It is easy to start concentrating on one particular task and lose focus for the other activities. On a worldwide basis, using a cell phone is one task that has been identified as taking attention away from our primary task and contributing to a lot of accidents as a result.

Other examples could be applied to any task. It is important to remember that other people are working around you and could be involved as a problem or a help. The important thing to remember is be aware of your surroundings.

Defensive driving or defensive work activities of any kind require that we:

- ◆ Take time to plan the work.
- ◆ Identify the hazards.
- ◆ Correct, control, or minimize the hazards.
- ◆ Communicate: with co-workers, management, others working nearby.
- ◆ Make sure you have the training needed. If you don't understand something, ask.
- ◆ Don't take short cuts.
- ◆ Don't compromise safety for production. There is nothing that we do that is worth anyone being injured.
- ◆ Remember to always lock-out and tag energy sources.
- ◆ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- ◆ Use the right tools for the job.
- ◆ Help your fellow workers. If you see something that could result in an injury, don't look the other way. Stopping an unsafe action is a good thing.
- ◆ Remember that you are responsible for your safety. Make safe operations a value that is considered in every task.

It is important to every person involved that **you** go home safe and sound everyday and it is just as important that you come to work safe and sound, as well.

For What It Is Worth!!

Sobriety Test—

A man got pulled over by a cop because he was weaving in and out of the lanes. The cop got out of his car and asked the driver to blow in a breath-analyzer tube to check his alcohol level.

"Oh, no," the driver said. "I can't do that. If I do that, I'll have an asthma attack and die."

"OK," said the officer, "let's go down to the station and you can pee in a cup to check your alcohol level."

"Oh, no, I can't do that. I'm a diabetic and if I pee my blood sugar level will go down so low that I might die."

"Fine then. Let's go to the station and take a blood test to check your alcohol level."

"Oh, no, I can't do that. I'm a hemophiliac and I'll never stop bleeding if you draw my blood."

"All right then, just step outside your car and walk this white line for me."

"Oh, no, I can't do that."

"Why not?"

"Because I'm drunk."

 * *Do you have a Safety* *
 * *Topic idea for me? I* *
 * *would like to hear from* *
 * *you!* *

**The Goal Is Clear!
2007 As Our Safest Year!!**

imi
Irving Materials, Inc.

Irving Materials, Inc.

Walt Tharp, Editor

Cell: 317-432-9604
Phone: 260-824-3428
Fax: 260-824-4422

E-mail:
walt.tharp@irvmat.com



We're Proud of Our Work

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!!

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

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The Great Glue: Experience

My Thanks to Carl Metzgar in the December 2006 issue of Pit&Quarry Magazine for the idea of this article.

It was written, some years ago, that in police training a salty old sergeant said, "if there was such a thing as common sense, everyone would have it." That point of view is hard to beat. Philosopher Descartes once wrote: "Common sense is the most evenly distributed thing in the world: for everyone thinks himself so well endowed with it that even those who are the hardest to please in everything else do not desire more of it than they already have."

Common sense has serious weaknesses, upon closer examination:

- ◆ Common sense knowledge is acquired in ordinary business and living, while scientific knowledge must be pursued deliberately and systematically.
- ◆ Common sense knowledge is individual; scientific knowledge is universal.
- ◆ Common sense knowledge accepts the obvious; scientific knowledge questions the obvious.
- ◆ Common sense knowledge is vague; scientific knowledge is precise.



- ◆ Common sense cannot be counted on to produce consistent results; application of scientific knowledge yields the same result every time.
- ◆ Common sense is gained through uncontrolled experience; scientific knowledge is gained through controlled experiment.

Injury prevention and loss control has to be scientific effort not simply common sense. Training and education are vital because most people's experience tends to be shallow and limited, and everyone's common sense is different. Education and training feeding experience is a much less painful way to learn than merely accumulating injuries. There is definitely a dynamic between the three.

We all tend to do what we have had experience with or what we have observed other people do, whether it is the "safe" way or not. Experience without training and education is saying that we are going to let common sense rule rather than to apply scientific knowledge. That would be extremely short sighted.

Common sense would tell us that personal protective equipment is a hindrance to performing our daily routine. After all, we have not had many injuries for lack of PPE in the past. But scientific knowledge shows that certain injuries and fatalities can be eliminated with the use of proper PPE. Who is willing to bet their life or the life of a friend or a family member against the use of proper PPE? That is a bet that I cannot take!

Let's use our experience, the great glue, to bind our training and education together to eliminate unwanted events.

Safety is never an accident!!