



Daily Risks and Creating a Culture of Safety

This topic is about the broader aspect of safety which touches all areas and can be called Daily Risk or Daily Hazard Assessments.

We all make daily risk and hazard assessments every day. Some are just common sense – you don't get out of shower and step on a slippery floor, you first toss down a bath mat. Some things we do because there's a penalty or fine, like putting your seatbelt on when you get in a car. The employees here are professionals – you are very good at your jobs and you do them well. We wouldn't think to tell you how to do your jobs, but we can remind you how to be safe and how not to become complacent. You might say to us – I've been doing this job for 20 years and I've done this a thousand times – but our workplace is always changing. We purchase new equipment that might be slightly different, introduce new processes that might be very different, management changes, and new employees are hired, and this introduces changes that may result in accidents.

Complacency is something that we are all guilty of - not worrying about the interlock ("we installed the guard") and not familiarizing yourself with a new piece of equipment ("I've used these things for years"). To go back to the point of working here for 20 years and never being hurt – you might have lived in your house on your street for over 20 years. You've crossed that street a thousand times and never been hurt but would you do it blindfolded? Of course not, you'll never stop looking before crossing.

We need to remind ourselves and others to do those daily hazard assessments and speak up – talk about safety. Do it in a positive and proactive manner – "hey, wait! You're going to get stuff in your eyes if you do that – here, use my safety glasses". Or, "hold on guys, I'm going to get the supervisor to take a look at this – I don't think it's safe". If we stop talking about safety, then so will you and people will be afraid or intimidated to say something. We will never stop talking about safety.

One of our goals is to encourage and enhance the Safety Culture in our workplace. Don't become complacent and don't take the short cut. Look at your jobs today with fresh eyes and make those daily risk assessments. Take the time to tape down the extension cords and put on your safety glasses and SPEAK UP when you see someone doing something hazardous or creating a hazardous situation. Your actions will rub off on others - most importantly our young workers – who won't feel intimidated or afraid to speak up when their safety is at stake. Let's all be leaders in safety.

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