

September 3, 2004

An Accident Is Only An Attitude Away

Attitude is everything when it comes to working safely. How would you describe your attitude about safety? Think about these aspects of a good safety attitude:

- **You consider safety first when planning any task.**
- **You see yourself as part of the workplace safety team.**
- **You realize you are primarily responsible for your own safety.**
- **You also feel responsible for keeping your co-workers and the public safe in connection with your work.**
- **You take advantage of all the safety training you can get by signing up for refresher courses and participating in safety meetings. You read the safety publications available in your workplace and you pay attention to safety information from a variety of sources.**
- **You are not afraid to admit you do not understand something. If you have a question about safety, you keep asking until you get a satisfactory answer. Your supervisor, safety officer and co-workers are all sources of information about how to work safely.**
- **You keep an open mind to new points of view. You also think critically and question or reject ideas which do not make sense.**
- **You make a practice of reading instructions, operator's manuals, material safety data sheets and labels before handling equipment or substances.**
- **You use the personal protective equipment recommended for your job. You decide to put up with any little discomfort or inconvenience of PPE in favor of protecting yourself from injury.**
- **You remain alert to any hazards in your workplace. You report them right away and persist until they are corrected.**
- **You know better than to take shortcuts when it comes to safety. Crossing the street against the pedestrian signal, running a red light, leaving off a machine guard or jumping down from an elevated surface are types of shortcuts that have proved fatal.**
- **You practice good housekeeping as you work. You pick up after yourself as you go along, and you don't consider the job done until the housekeeping is done.**
- **You communicate with your co-workers. You warn them of anything that might put them in danger; whether it is work you are doing yourself or hazards from another source. You use the correct hand signals and mechanical signals on moving equipment.**
- **While hoping for the best you prepare for the worst. You know how to escape from your work area in an emergency and how to fight a small fire with an extinguisher. You know what to do in case of a small or large chemical spill.**

- You treat all workers with respect. You never harass another worker, even if you are just joking.
- You take your good safety attitude home and pass it on to your family. Regular fire drills and home inspections are part of your household routine. Using PPE when working on home projects, and storing chemicals safely are also expressions of your good safety attitude.
- You keep learning about better ways to do your job safely and productively.

Do these qualities describe your safety attitude? If they do you probably won't say goodbye to your safety teammates from the back door of an ambulance.

“Your attitude will determine your safety!”

Safety Tip: School is back in session. Drive carefully to avoid an accident. Obey all traffic laws and watch out for kids.

