



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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7 Common Causes of a Accidents



“It’s better to be careful 100 times than to get killed once.”

--Mark Twain

80 out of 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident. **Unsafe acts** cause 4 times as many accidents and injuries as **unsafe conditions**.

Accidents or incidents happen for many reasons. In many cases we look for “things” to blame an accident on, rather than investigate the situation and find out the “root” cause.

Below we shall list the 7 causes of accidents. After we have read over the list, we should ask ourselves- have we ever been guilty of having one of these attitudes or behaviors. This by no means that we are attempting to “point fingers,” rather looking at ourselves to determine if this has occurred to us at one time or another.

- **Taking Shortcuts –**

Everyday we are looking at work tasks and thinking if there are ways that we can be faster, more efficient. There is nothing wrong with this thinking; however, we need to be very careful in looking for time savers that we don’t sacrifice or jeopardize our safety or that of our fellow workers. If this happens then our “shortcut” has become a hazard for injury and possibly lost time and workdays.

- **Being Over Confident-**

Confidence is a good thing! Over confidence is “too much of a good thing.” “It won’t happen to me” is an attitude that could be looking for an accident, because in this trait, repetition comes in to play with tools, equipment, work methods, etc. and self-assurance could fail when you lose focus on the task at hand. This is when the potential for an accident and injury might occur.

- **Starting a job without all the Instructions-**

To do an assigned job correctly and efficiently you must have all the instructions. I believe that sometime we have all seen or experienced where an employee was sent to a job without all the necessary instructions. Not only can he or she not complete the job as it was assigned, but the safety precautions are possibly at risk as well. The worst sin in this situation is not asking questions before the job actual starts. Many times we have heard this comment that I didn’t ask because I didn’t want to appear dumb. This is the fallacy of that insecurity. Don’t be afraid to ask- that is when you’re dumb- for not asking before trouble sets in.

- **Poor Housekeeping-**

This next statement may sound like a broken record or “beating a dead horse,” but it is very true. The first impression that executives from MAFES or outside guests to our research stations or other university facilities see is how they perceive the personality of that unit. If the grounds are clean and neatly trimmed, the shops clean and organized, crop areas clean with row ends neat, then they will leave with the perception that there is a group that has pride in their facilities. The neat and organized unit not only carries over to their appearance, but lends itself to positive attitudes of safety, crop production and quality.

- **Ignoring Safety Procedures-**

Ignoring safety policies is the fastest way that ultimately can lead to accidents and injuries. Our safety policies and programs may be like an old adage that I haven’t heard in many years and that is, “The Boss ain’t always right, but he is always the Boss.” We have safety programs, safety newsletters and proven safety practices in place that, if followed, will greatly reduce the potential for accidents and injuries. “Gracias a Dios,” our programs are working well for the most part, but we always have room for more improvement and cooperation. **Casual practice toward safety only leads to a casualty.**

- **Mental Distractions from Work-**

Dropping your mental guard during working hours induces the potential for non-focusing on safe work procedure and practices. There are several reasons that result in mental lapses, problems at home and then brought to work unsettled: Love quarrels with the girl or boy friend, and possibly an issue with a fellow employee. It is easy to get distracted by friends at work that come by to visit, which results in lost time or derailing the work task. We need to try to protect from allowing these types of distractions side lining us, possibly resulting in the individual becoming a casualty or injury statistic.

- **Failure to Pre-plan the Work-**

I have observed that this is one of the highlights in our system. Planning work schedules by the day and in some areas multi-days or a week. The old saying that we should “Plan the work and work the plan.” The plan may not always work at 100%, but it is much easier to deviate from a plan than attempting to work by the seat of our pants.

**WORKING *TOGETHER* GETS THE JOB
DONE SAFELY!**
<>THERE’S NO “I” IN TEAM WORK <>
AT WORK <><>
AT PLAY <><>
LET SAFETY LEAD THE WAY <><>