

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Safety Tips:
Having the Right Safety Attitude

Attitudes affect just about every aspect of our lives. In our work atmosphere, if everyone cares about each other and watches out for your fellow workers, taking safety seriously, it tends to result in fewer injuries and fewer equipment problems. Senior employees are more conscious of these traits which, hopefully, will result in a positive response for newer, junior employees.

What is the right safety attitude? It means that all of us takes the responsibility to watch out for each other. Take for example, an employee is working in the shop and forgets and leaves a tool on the floor when his project is completed. You walk by and see the tool on the floor; instead of passing it by, you pick it up and return it to its rightful place. This ultimately will display a positive example for other employees to see and, hopefully, follow. I saw a sign in an automotive shop that says:

HAVING A GOOD, POSITIVE SAFETY ATTITUDE MEANS-

- ✓ Doing the best job that you can – not necessarily the fastest that you can.
- ✓ Being careful on the job – no horseplay!
- ✓ Staying focused on the job that you have been assigned to do.
- ✓ Being on the alert for potential job hazards and reporting them to your supervisor.
- ✓ Taking the necessary precautions against hazards, such as using the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is required and provided for you.
- ✓ Following all safety rules and paying close attention to the all safety signs.
- ✓ Thinking about the safety of your fellow employees, besides yourself.
- ✓ Taking responsibility for your own safety – including reporting any injuries.

COMMON DISTRACTIONS-

There are many reasons that cause employees to get distracted from the job that they are working on, which is one reason that they can end up with an injury. Some common distractions consist of:

- ✓ Not enough sleep
- ✓ Coming to work upset or mad
- ✓ Coming to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- ✓ Having your mind a “thousand miles” from your present work or just plain “daydreaming.”
- ✓ Getting in too big of a hurry
- ✓ Getting angry or upset while you’re at work

- ✓ Not staying focused or concentrating on your assigned work project
- ✓ Not maintaining an awareness of potential hazards
- ✓ Talking or “visiting” with other employees instead of remaining focused on your assigned work project

POOR SAFETY ATTITUDES-

Probably little thought is given to the fact that a poor attitude can lead to potential hazards or even lead to an injury. If you feel guilty about some of these bad attitudes, it isn’t too late to change. There is an old saying, “A leopard doesn’t change his spots.” This isn’t necessarily true because people can change.

Following are some examples of poor attitudes:

- ✓ I know what I’m doing and I will continue to do my way.
- ✓ I’ve always done this job my way and I have never gotten hurt.
- ✓ I have done this so long I can do it in my sleep.
- ✓ No time to think about safety – have to get it finished.
- ✓ I know a shortcut that will let me get finished in a hurry.
- ✓ This is a simple job.
- ✓ The safety rules don’t apply to me – they aren’t important anyway.
- ✓ I can figure out how to do this job; I don’t need any help.

Any one of these attitudes can potentially lead you to the ER or, worse still, could affect your future on the job.

TIPS OR ADVICE FOR DEVELOPING POSITIVE SAFETY ATTITUDES-

- ✓ If you are new on the job, be sure that you get the proper training to do the job safely and efficiently. Having a positive attitude includes being willing to listen and learn – refraining from the attitude that I “know it all.”
- ✓ Always put safety and quality of the job first – avoiding shortcuts to finish the job early, possibly sacrificing the safety of yourself and quality of the project.
- ✓ Dress properly for the job – use the proper PPE required. Dress in the proper street clothes that offer protection from getting caught in moving parts of various types of farm equipment.
- ✓ Attend any scheduled meetings, especially where safety is the focus.
- ✓ Consider the results or misfortune that you might encounter by not having a good safety attitude – a disabling injury or possibly death. How could you support your family if you should have a disabling injury?

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SAFETY IS
EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY