



The Safety Zone

The Newsletter of the AHA Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Trust

Safety Attitude Adjustment *Take a refresher course*

You know your job and do it well. But do you have the attitude required to do the job both well and safely? Do you need an attitude adjustment regarding safety?

If you have a poor attitude about safety, it will show up in everything you say and do. Sometimes, workers develop the attitude that safety rules were made to be broken – especially when no one is looking.

Even those who are hardworking and conscientious about every other aspect of their jobs can have a poor safety attitude. They may take shortcuts not because they are lazy but because they want to get the work done more quickly. Ignoring safety procedures, however, can cause accidents and injuries that slow down production more than working safely in the first place.

Most people don't intend to work with a bad safety attitude or even realize they have one. They think their last couple of accidents were just that – accidents that couldn't have been prevented. Here's how you can develop a good attitude concerning safety:

- Keep your mind focused on the job at hand. Put aside any personal problems that have been bothering you so that you can watch for hazards and accomplish what you have set out to do.



"You've reported your coworkers for unsafe climbing, open flames and throwing sharp objects. You do realize you work for a circus, right?"

- Tell yourself that you will not let nearby noises or conversations interrupt your concentration or prevent you from doing the job safely.

Continued

news & notes

KNOW WHO TO TURN TO IN A WORK-PLACE EMERGENCY

In your workplace, the **emergency scene coordinator** is trained to issue orders during the emergency and to:

- Assess the incident to determine if it requires an emergency response.
- Determine if an evacuation is necessary and to manage an evacuation.
- Supervise emergency scene assistants*.
- Communicate with professional responders, such as ambulance, police and fire departments.
- Direct shutdown of critical workplace equipment or operations.

***Emergency scene assistants** are responsible for a specific number of employees within a particular work area. They know how to respond to emergencies and how to use emergency communication equipment. They are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid and how to respond to threats of violence. Other responsibilities include:

- Knowing who needs assistance in an evacuation and how to assist them.
- Coordinating the emergency activities of the employees.
- Knowing the workplace layout, appropriate escape routes and areas that employees must not enter during an evacuation.
- Verifying that employees are in designated safe areas after an evacuation.

Follow the instructions provided by the emergency scene assistants.



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Safety Attitude Adjustment, continued

- Don't give in to pressure from your coworkers to be unsafe. You don't have to join in with horseplay, take shortcuts or participate in cover-ups. Instead, take the lead in behaving in an adult and responsible manner. If coworkers are behaving in an unsafe manner, tell a supervisor.
- Report all accidents and near misses, even if they seem unimportant at the time.
- Try to understand why an accident occurred to avoid making the same mistake twice.
- Always follow safe work practices and wear any personal protective equipment (PPE) that you are required to wear.
- Practice good housekeeping. Keep your work area free of clutter and clean up spills promptly.
- Be considerate of your coworkers. Don't do anything that would endanger them. In fact, go a step further and remind coworkers about safety. Say something when they forget to put on PPE or when they ignore the rules.

By following these suggestions, you can develop a positive safety attitude, one that others will respect and look up to as an example. But even better than that, you'll be able to do productive work and stay safe at the same time.

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Got News?

Do you have news that needs to be circulated or have a subject you would like for us to address? Let us know by emailing the newsletter editor at tcreel@arkhospitals.org.

AHA Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Trust Program is administered by Risk Management Resources (RMR), a division of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, Inc. www.bxsi.com. In March 2003 the AHA Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Trust was established. The program provides workers' compensation coverage to AHA members.

Risk Management Resources, the administrator for the program, assists members in the areas of claims management, safety and loss control. Tina Creel, Vice President of AHA Services, Inc., is the Group Manager of the Trust and provides oversight of the day-to-day operation of the Trust.

The Board of Trustees provides oversight of the overall operation of the Group Trust.