

YOUR SAFETY ATTITUDE

Attitude Is Everything

You've been getting advice about safety for years. You've listened to it with one ear, but maybe you never thought about it much. Deep down, you may even think "It can't happen to me." Then, your buddy Jack (who's in a hurry to get off work), has a bad accident. It costs him his hand.

The accident affects everyone—especially you. You can see what it means to Jack—physical pain, emotional shock, lost income... He'll have to train for a new job, and his wife will work longer hours. Things are going to be tough for him and his family for a long time. After the accident, you notice your attitude at work has really changed. You make a point of staying alert. You take extra time to use special equipment and procedures. You're more willing to take suggestions that might protect you.

Why wait for this story to become real? A positive attitude toward safety will pay off in countless ways—saving you money, keeping your job, even saving your life. Why wait until you lose something precious before you realize how easy it would have been to save it? Now is the best time to develop a good attitude toward safety.

A Good Safety Attitude

How you deal with these elements adds up to your safety attitude. A



Five steps for developing a good safety attitude.

good attitude is a habit you can learn!

1. *Focus.* A good attitude means you are focused on the present task. How well are you concentrating? If something else is on your mind or an interesting conversation is going on nearby, you may be distracted. If you're tired or bored, a slip is easy.

2. *Time.* A good attitude means taking time to do the job right. Sure, it takes longer to put on that extra equipment. But is saving a few minutes worth a painful injury? A good attitude also means managing your time well. It may help you to make a list of what you need to do each day. Number the jobs going from most important to least. If you can do them in that order, you'll know you're doing the most important things and are less likely to rush.

3. *Strength.* No, we don't mean muscle strength. What we mean is the strength to do what's right. Others may want you to take shortcuts or fool around. They may ask you to "forget" to file an accident report. A good attitude means you have the strength to do the right thing.

4. *Responsibility.* If you care about yourself and others at work, you'll take responsibility even when a certain task "isn't my job." Wouldn't you appreciate it if someone had cleaned up that broken glass instead of leaving it for you to find as slivers in your

hand? A good attitude means thinking of yourself as part of a team. Everyone helps make it a winning one.

5. *Risk.* There's no way to avoid *all* risks. (Just by getting in your car you're taking a chance.) But you can weigh the risks of doing a job in a certain way. Even if the risk is one in a thousand, it's not worth it. A good attitude means being smart and avoiding taking risks whenever you can.

Your Attitude Affects Everyone

Your attitude toward safety is a habit that affects everyone where you work and at home. We can always think of excuses for not acting with safety in mind, but in the end, it makes a lot more sense to have a good safety attitude. 

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