

# January 2008 Safety Meeting

## Safe Attitudes

Safety starts with a safe attitude. Attitudes can, and generally do determine whether you will be safe and healthy or unsafe and injured. The dictionary says attitude is a feeling, a point of view based on a strongly held conviction. It's the way an individual or group of people think and believe. Attitude is a habit of thinking that often leads to a fixed way of acting. Attitudes can be strong, good, bad or weak; and they can change. A good safety attitude will lead to good safety behavior. Do you have the proper attitude that will affect good safety practices?

Have you ever heard, or perhaps used the excuse, "The law of averages caught up with me" after an accident or injury? Many injuries and fatalities have occurred in all kinds of industries because someone overstepped their boundaries. They were too proud to take advantage of using the correct safety procedures and personal protective equipment (PPE). How many of the following "excuses" or shortcuts have you heard or used?

- I know what I'm doing
- It slows me down
- Accidents just happen
- It can't (or won't) happen to me
- Don't tell me what to do
- Safety is sissy stuff
- I've been doing this for years
- I've always done it this way

What causes these unsafe attitudes? It may be a worker who won't listen to instructions or doesn't like to follow directions. He or she may resent all authority. Perhaps it could even be the attitude that there is nothing new to learn. The problem with unsafe attitudes is they can lead to dangerous acts.

Some people seem to think they can ignore safety rules or standard operating procedures (SOP's) whenever it is not convenient to obey them. All safety rules or standard operating procedures apply to everyone and require the involvement of everyone in the organization.

Many accidents result from doing something that is unsafe. Safety is the responsibility of all employees. It is important that all workers understand that they have the primary responsibility for their own safety. Practicing safe work habits is a positive step to preventing accidents and injury.

### **Class Discussion**

Ask your employees to share incidents where their attitude toward safety contributed to either a positive or negative outcome. Discuss ways to improve attitudes toward safety within your organization.

### **Closing**

Instilling a safe attitude in your organization and reinforcing the safe attitude can be one of the toughest safety challenges our industry faces today. However, it is time and effort well spent if even one accident is prevented.

Safety benefits all.

A positive attitude towards safety will pay off in countless ways. It could even save your life.

# January 2008 Test

## Safe Attitudes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions: Read and answer each of the following questions. When complete, grade the test and review incorrect answers so each employee is “armed” with the correct answers before they leave the training.**

- (1) Attitudes can be strong, good, bad or weak; and they can change.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
- (2) Safety rules or SOP's apply to:
  - A. Management
  - B. Employee's with CDL's
  - C. Service Technicians
  - D. Everyone in the organization
  
- (3) The Primary responsibility for safety is with the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. management
  - B. public
  - C. individual worker
  - D. all of the above
  
- (4) The best way to prevent accidents is to eliminate \_\_\_\_\_ working practices.
  - A. unsafe
  - B. safe
  - C. standard
  - D. efficient
  
- (5) Safety benefits the entire organization.
  - A. True
  - B. False

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## Answer Sheet

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. a
5. a