Paying Attention

Congratulations to you who read this entire page! You are rare! Less than 20% will read this information. Most will fold this up and put it in a pocket without looking at it. The percentages are actually about the same when we think about the number of people who will listen to what is being said today. The first question that comes to mind is, “Why?”, but a more important question is, “Who?”.

Who is not listening or paying attention to this safety information?

You in the 20% category need to know who around you does not care about your safety enough to pay attention for a few minutes. Why? Because they rarely hurt themselves. Many times, you will be the one injured by their negligence. Don’t worry, it is easy to tell who is and who is not paying attention. Here is a clue, it is the person talking to you right now about something that happened last night or what is going to happen this weekend.

Keep your eyes on this person. Your safety and the safety of others in the area depend upon you. Be a safety professional and tell this person how important safety is to you and others on your crew. Do you want to spend tonight or this weekend in the hospital? Of course not. Promote a safe work environment for you and your co-workers.

Common Sense is Actually Learned

Common sense is learned through our own experiences or observations. Awareness of our surroundings, concern for my fellow workers, and self-preservation are all factors in good common sense. Our desire to avoid pain and serious injury leads us to act in a safe manner in most cases, but sometimes workers choose to commit unsafe acts. Why?

1. **I am in a hurry.** We may feel pressured to complete a job quickly. Always work at a safe pace. The job always takes longer if someone is injured before the job is done.

2. **It is just a little shortcut.** I am willing to take the chance that everything will be alright. No one is asking you to be a hero by taking a shortcut here at work. Follow the safety rules and remember that horseplay is dangerous.

3. **Boy, I sure had a great time last night!** Not paying attention to your work can lead to serious injury for you or a co-worker. Keep your mind on your work instead of being preoccupied by what you did last night or what you plan to do when you leave.

4. **Can you believe the price of gas went up again today?!** Being angry or in a bad mood can lead to severe accidents. Anger will cloud your judgment and could allow you to do something dangerous. Stay cool and control your emotions.

5. **Hazards? What hazards?** Look for hidden hazards on the job site. That tool you stepped over earlier may be what causes you to trip later. Even a minor slip or trip could cause a serious injury. Don’t just casually check your surroundings. Look, observe, and study your surroundings very carefully. Try to anticipate what could cause an accident or injury to you and your co-workers.

Always stay alert for hazards so that you don’t become another accident statistic. Keep your mind on your work and maintain a positive attitude. Remember, smart workers use “common sense”.

**Thank you! Continue to work safely and keep up the great work!**