

# The Right Attitude Toward Safety

A positive attitude towards safety makes the most of company safety tools and training. When you take safety seriously, you take advantage of the protections available on the job. The safety procedures, equipment, and information employers provide include:

- Engineering controls such as fall protection.
- Work procedures such as fire prevention.
- Personal protective equipment such as safety glasses and hard hats.
- Emergency planning and response programs.
- Safety information such as chemical labels and MSDSs.
- Training on how to do your job safely.

**Carelessness** is the most common cause of workplace accidents. **Unsafe acts** are often a factor in accidents. Accidents result when people take attitudes like these towards safety: **Complacency**- after performing a job many times without an accident, you may believe you're experienced enough to skip safety procedures or steps. That's exactly when an accident happens. **Being upset or angry**- you can't let emotions get in the way of doing your job correctly. **Distraction** can be dangerous. **Fatigue**- being tired can slow down your physical and mental reactions causing your mind to wander. **Recklessness**- taking chances with tools, machinery, chemicals, or work procedures is foolish and dangerous. **Being afraid to ask questions**- training and work procedures cover a lot of ground- sometimes too much to remember. Always ask when you're not sure what to do or how to do it. It shows you're smart enough to know what you don't know.

Always take a positive attitude towards safety. Take personal responsibility for your own safety and that of your co-workers. Pay attention to training. Follow every step in every job every time. Know and follow safety rules. Use required PPE. Give work you full attention. Keep an eye out for hazards. Always ask, "What could go wrong here?" Put your personal feelings and problems aside while you're working. Urge your co-workers to follow safety procedures. Know what to do in an emergency. Ask questions about any procedure that is not clear. Report any safety hazards you can't fix. Save fooling around for your personal time.

Look for opportunities to improve workplace safety. Take an active role in safety meetings and training sessions, proposing safety improvements through suggestions, cooperating with safety inspections and monitoring, and setting an example of a good safety attitude for others, especially new employees.