

Attitude for Safety

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Overview

Safety is important for several reasons. By working safely, many problems caused by accidents can be avoided. Safety on the job prevents workers from getting injured or killed, losing work time, or losing productivity. A good safety record also helps your contractor be more profitable, because insurance costs are lower for safe companies.

For Discussion

What is a positive safety attitude and why is it important to have one?

A positive safety attitude means that you pay attention during safety training sessions, follow the safety rules, think about possible risks and how to eliminate them, stay alert and focused on your job, and consider how your actions might affect the safety of others.

It's important for you to have a positive attitude regarding safety because others on the job might not. Unfortunately, some employees have remarked that, "I don't know how the accident happened, but I figured something would, sooner or later." This suggests the attitude of the workforce is that accidents cannot be prevented and are an expected occurrence.

Statements like this can make it hard to keep a positive attitude. You might feel you don't have the support of your co-workers. In this case, you should lead by example. If you show others how important safety is to you, they will begin to catch on and develop the same attitude.

Expecting an accident is accepting an accident. Accidents are often the result of neglect, oversight, or just plain carelessness on the part of the employer or employees. Accidents don't just happen - they are caused.

Possible Ways to Help Prevent Accidents

- Check work areas daily for hazards. Proper precautions should be noted and carried out to safeguard personnel when working with or near overhead power lines, open ditches, scaffolds, or any potential hazard.
- Equipment and vehicles should be checked daily for major and minor defects. Road vehicles should have safe tires, steering linkage, windshield wipers, rearview mirrors, etc. Cranes should be inspected periodically to ensure that safe cables and chokers are used.
- Check housekeeping daily. Keep all work areas and walkways clear of debris.
- Check hand and power tools before each use. Replace or repair all damaged tools.
- Check ladders and scaffolds before each use. Ladders won't slip if properly tied off. Tools won't fall off scaffolds when toe-boards are properly installed.