Toolbox Topic

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

Company: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Safety Appeal

**We all have a natural tendency to want to be safe. Put another way, psychologists say that normal individuals**

**possess certain desires through which safety becomes appealing. These desires include:**

**Avoiding personal injury**

**Avoiding personal loss**

**Reward seeking**

**Striving for leadership**

**Excelling**

**Preventing injuries to others**

**Avoiding making an unfavorable impression**

**Avoiding punishment**

**It’s easy to recognize that all of these things do have safety appeal. However, let’s take a look at two of the more** **obvious ones, the desire to avoid personal injury and the desire to avoid personal loss. Personal injury and personal** **loss are things we all want to escape, but many of us do little on our own to help avoid accidents that cause them.**

**There are things that can be done on the job to help prevent painful incidents, particularly those caused by unsafe** **acts.**

**First of all, no matter how good we are at our job or how long we have been around, we can’t take safety for** **granted. We must always keep our personal guard up. When we let it down, we are exposing ourselves and others** **to accidents.**

**Second, we must take time to be safe. We must not take a chance that an accident won’t happen this** **time. Taking shortcuts or not taking time to use a safety device is a quick way to get involved in an accident.**

**A third way to avoid unsafe acts is to form good working habits. There is a right way to do every job, and the right** **way is always the safe way. Accept the fact that accidents don’t just happen to the other guy, or at least be realistic** **enough to acknowledge that we are the other guy to everyone but us.**

**The awful truth is that accidents play no favourites. They can happen to anyone.**

**The people who compiled the list of personal desires that can be used to promote safety also suggested that there** **are certain character traits that can be stimulated to make us safety conscious.**

**Some of these traits are selfishness, ambition, compassion, pride, and a sense of responsibility, loyalty, imagination,** **and patriotism.** **I guess we all have to be a little selfish, at least to the extent of wanting to keep ourselves safe, but certainly not at** **the expense of others.**

**A sense of responsibility to our families should certainly be an incentive to do our utmost to stay safe and do a good job.** **Pride and ambition, when applied in the right way are also commendable traits. Pride in our work and a desire to** **get ahead always complement being safe. In fact we are safe because of pride and ambition. We can’t keep a job** **and get the things we want out of life if we’re injured and unable to work.** **Our safety program depends on everyone, so be sure to hold up your end of the effort. Be observant. Regularly** **attempt to spot hazards in advance and remember that anyone can spot a hazard after it has injured someone.**

**“** **Character is what emerges from all the little things you were too busy to do yesterday, but did anyway.”**

~ ***Mignon McLaughlin***