

Carl's Safety Opine Number 2: April 20, 2020

Getting Back to Work Will Require Us to Keep Safety Simple, Accountability, Responsibility, and Trust

"Life's tough.....it's even tougher if you're stupid" -- John Wayne

Just this last week I posted some information and thoughts only to hear from an individual who considers himself highly admired because he is a local celebrity. His comment to my attempt at making some common sense to returning to work was, "People are not smart enough", I respectfully disagree.

Creating an environment where it is difficult to get hurt takes a bit of rigor and commitment; however, we need to keep it simple so people will do what needs to be done. In general, most people may have trouble believing that they will be affected by the virus, while a small percentage may be convinced that they will contact the virus, suffer, and die. What we do know is that some may get it, some may carry it and some may die and these are from the numbers generated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other acronyms we are asked to trust. When it comes down to it, each of us must make our own decision about staying safe.

Keep Safety Simple as we return to work,



First, keep a positive attitude. Listen to what is being said and consider if it makes sense to you. Ask questions like, "How will this (mitigation tactic) reduce the risk?" Listen to the answer without judging the person talking or their formal position. Consider that they are "really trying to help." In most cases everyone has the same goals no matter where in the world we are located. On the other hand, some people with a negative attitude will believe that what is being done is incorrect. Do your own analysis by learning how risk is reduced through mitigation tactics.

Secondly, follow the given procedures that are said to keep you safe. In this case the likelihood is that whatever is being done reduces the risk at least a little,

which may be enough for now. Encourage those around you to follow the procedures and help explain why it does reduce the risk but engage in discussions that may prove helpful in improving the current procedures.

Thirdly, keep an eye out by observing yourself and others. Self-observation is important to making sure you are doing what is expected. Nothing motivates others like seeing those around them demonstrating a good attitude, following established procedures, and wearing personal protective equipment.

Fourth and lastly, keep wearing your personal protective equipment (PPE). You have heard that PPE is the last line of defense but in the case of the virus it is the frontline defense. It just makes sense that an agent that requires droplets of water to be spread can be slowed down, and maybe contained by a barrier.

Until an anti-virus is identified and made available to the masses we will be practicing mitigation strategies and tactics to reduce the risk of spreading the Covid-19 strain of Coronavirus. Our world has and continues to control illnesses and diseases that have ravaged communities for centuries. Covid-19 will not win this battle and this crisis will soon be in our past, but safeguards will still be in place to keep it at bay much like Polio and Cholera. Bottomline is that it will require each of us to take action to help the situation.

Getting back to work will require you to accept accountability and be responsible for your own actions. This will give you an opportunity to develop trust among your co-workers and leadership as we work together to create workplace environments where it is difficult to get hurt.

Thanks for your commitment, and be safe,

Carl Potter, CSP

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