

# ACCIDENTS COST EVERYONE

This topic was created to aid you with your regular scheduled safety meetings. This topic was designed to be presented in 5 to 10 minutes with a minimum of preparation. Remember to fill in the documentation section on the reverse side.

When anyone you work with gets into an accident, it costs everyone. It's almost as if you could take an extra deduction from your paycheck. But the costs are always greater than money alone.

Each time you go to a doctor, someone has to pay the bill. It may seem to you that it doesn't matter, since your company carries workers' compensation insurance. But it does matter. Even insured accidents can end up costing you money. The more accidents there are, the more expensive the insurance is. The money to pay for those increased costs has to come from somewhere. The higher your company's expenses are, the less money there is available for the important things—like your paycheck.

The more accidents there are, the less productive the company can be. The less productive a company is, the harder it becomes to be competitive with safety-minded companies. Competitors taking away business may mean you don't get the raise or the bonus you hoped for.

One tragic cost of accidents is the cost of losing your hopes and dreams. Losing a hand or a life may set a family back for years. Even if an accident isn't so serious, it can still hurt your hopes. A successful future may be ruined by a careless accident.

Careless attitudes can lead to two kinds of pain, and it's difficult to say which one is worse. There is the physical pain of an injury, and there is the emotional pain as a result of a death or serious injury. There is a degree of pain involved in all accidents.

Luckily, many accidents can be avoided by simply taking extra time and care, by wearing and using the right equipment and by following safe practices. There's no reason to pay the high costs of accidents.

## **SAFETY REMINDER:**

**Work safely to promote an injury-free workplace. The pain and suffering you prevent may be your own.**