

HAZARD RECOGNITION

It's an unfortunate truth that many workers are seriously injured each year and people still believe that accidents "just happen."
But accidents do not just happen!

What goes wrong?

Usually, an error that is within the control of one or more people is at the root cause. Often, several contributing factors take place at the same time for an accident to occur. Unfortunately, accidents are most frequently caused by cutting corners and poor planning.

Don't Take Safety Shortcuts

When workers get out on the job with a supervisor monitoring their output, they are expected to achieve production goals. If they feel their job is on the line, they may pay less attention to safety and more attention to production in order to look better in the eyes of the boss. Proper planning and site preparations will ensure a high level of efficiency which will contribute to a higher production rate. If workers don't properly plan and prepare then the result will be shortcuts and risk taking. When workers meet their production goals, the boss should make sure that the goals were accomplished with all safety requirements being met. Reward the workers for their planning and efficient preparation instead of finishing the job on time. If you congratulate your workers without ensuring they properly planned and prepared for the job, you may be rewarding them for cutting corners. If this is the case, what do you think they will do next time around?

Planning & Preparation

It is an employee's responsibility to work safely, and that means taking time to review what is to be done – and what could go wrong. All employees should make it a habit to check out the work area and assure the work can be done without mishaps. Make sure you have the right tools for the job, and they are well maintained. Make sure your team is trained and properly dressed and wearing the proper PPE. It helps to remember the 5 P's: Proper, Planning, Prevents, Poor Performance.

Identify Hazards

The following questions should be asked to help predict what could go wrong and how risks might be controlled:

- Are the necessary materials available to perform the work?
- Does everyone have the proper tools to perform the tasks at hand?
- Are there enough workers to handle the job? Have they all had effective safety training?
- Are environmental conditions, such as light, noise, and weather a factor?
- Are there too many people in the area to work safely?
- Have others on the job/in the work area been notified about the hazardous tasks or conditions?

Don't wait for accidents to occur – think and plan ahead!

STOP if something isn't right or even if it doesn't feel right, adjust the plan, remediate the hazard, and then continue with the work.

A manager's minimum expectation will be the workers maximum participation, so set your expectations high and only reward workers for doing the right thing. In your planning, talk about what makes things go right and always be looking for ways to improve the safety on the site. Make sure your workers know that you expect them to take a pause if something doesn't look right or feel right. If you do these things with every task, you will go home safe at the end of the day.

PLAN – MITIGATE HAZARDS – STOP WHEN SOMETHING IS WRONG