

Thoughts from the "Safety Guy"

Clips of personal experience and opinions



















Chuck Gessner

AURA Insurance Program Administrator
NOAO Risk Manager
Assistant Facilities Manager

SALVATION!

"So you're the new safety guy! Great to have you on board. Sure glad we finally have someone responsible for safety in our company."



The Safety Officer

Some more progressive managers know that regulatory compliance is <u>only</u> part of the equation.

Please don't carry the big stick!

"We are looking for a kinder and gentler safety person."

The Safety Specialist

Some management camps believe that a safety specialist is someone who manages worker compensation paper work.



The Safety Manager

Even in Safety Camps:

"So you say that you are a Safety Manager and not a clerk. How does the work get done?"

"What are you going to do, be like the Washing Machine repair man on TV?"

Walking on a tight rope

"Well, If the safety guy is not responsible for safety...what good are you?

What the heck are you going to do? I got all of this paperwork to file and everyone else is busy!"

What makes a good safety manager?

- Part of the senior management team
- Responsible for the overall performance of the business
- Responsible for program development
- Viewed as a resource to the entire organization
- Inspires the organization to value safety and manage all risks in their area of responsibility

A New World Order!

Risk Manager (a.k.a. safety officer- "safety guy")

- Guide
- Educate
- Train

• (Motivate) through Inspiration

The Truth Could Hurt

- All employees are responsible to know the standards, procedures, rules. To comply and participate in the program.
- The manager in charge of the people and operations is responsible for safety;
- The manager who is in charge of the manager of the people and operations is responsible for safety;
- and so on.

Hollow Statements? Safety is our #1 priority!

Safety First!





The truth:

Profits are our first priority!

"or expense control"

WHAT IS SAFETY?

You've heard the slogans:

- Safety First!
- Work Safe!
- Committed to Safety!
- Safety is our First Priority!
- ETC.....

What does it mean?

We're not talking about that other safety, spelled: saftey

SAFETY

THE CONTROL OF ACCIDENTAL LOSS

AN ACCIDENT IS

- AN UNDESIRED EVENT
- THAT RESULTS IN HARM TO PEOPLE, DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, OR LOSS TO PROCESS
- INVOLVES CONTACT WITH A SUBSTANCE OR SOURCE OF ENERGY ABOVE THE THRESHOLD LIMIT OF A BODY OR STRUCTURE

INCIDENT

AN UNDESIRED EVENT WHICH, UNDER SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD HAVE RESULTED IN HARM TO PEOPLE, DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, OR LOSS TO PROCESS.

WHAT CAUSES ACCIDENTS?



CORRECT.....?

- EMPLOYEE FAILURE
- ATTITUDE
- LACK OF PRESENT MOMENT THINKING
- CARELESSNESS
- FAILURE TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
- LACK OF COMMON SENSE
- NEGLIGENCE
- IGNORANCE, HOLIDAZE

Common Sense

 The use of these two words in a conversation about safety is non-sense!

 It is an excuse for not managing safety!

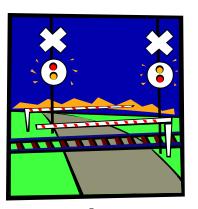
Shades of Gray

- If it's not safe, don't do it!
- We don't do or condone unsafe behavior!
- What is safe and what is an excuse?
- Anyone can shut it down if it is unsafe.
- We have a responsibility to tell people that this "product" is unsafe.

Safety is not always B&W

- The best that we can do is perform investigations (even before an accident occurs- hazard analysis), then make the corrections
- We do this in a financial setting, Return on Investments (ROI)
- Hazard Analysis-Risk Assessments are like doing an ROI
- Do the things that we know that will reduce risk

Life is Risky



- When you get out of bed, do you plan your day in light of the risks that you will encounter? Think about it.....did you:
 - look both ways before crossing that railroad track?
 - Check the air pressure of your tires before backing out of the driveway?
 - Check to see if the beverage your drinking was tampered with?

Life/Risk requires analysis

KNOW (as much as possible) THE SEVERITY OF THE CONSEQUENCES

Plan those activities in life that are high risk or at least those thing that you know are risky.

In an industrial setting there are many, we are not just watching TV.

Management does this every day in a business setting, it no different to manage financial risks or "safety" risks

SAFETY MYTH

99% of accidents are caused by the Unsafe Actions of people.....

NONSENSE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This differs from site to site and is dependant on the application of the Principle of Multiple Causes.

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

FOUR FINGER RULE

LACK OF CONTROL

LACK OF MANAGEMENT CONTROL



MANAGEMENT CONTROL

A PRIMARY MEANS TO SAFETY Along with production or productivity, quality, and cost.

SEVEN OR YO

QUESTION:

Are we minimizing loss by

CONTROL?

Or mostly by LUCK?

Proactive safety management

- A regulatory compliance driven safety program is the bare bones approach
- The real meat is creating a culture that has a proactive approach rather than relying on luck
- Proactive safety is doing something before an accident or incident occurs

Here's a Clue

"The greatness of a company is manifested through its compassion towards all its personnel.

How else can it expect loyalty?

Frank Salas Jr. 1999

Injury Rates



"Our safety performance is good! Our injury rate is less than the national average!"

FACTS:

- A fatality counts as one injury
- An injury is up to interpretation
- If IR's are the only safety performance measurements, safety people are good at interpreting what defines an injury

Dan Peterson

"...analysis of safety system effectiveness by accident statistics is usually a waste of time. Because of sample size, they are usually invalid, mostly measuring luck." Variations Presented At:

2010 NSF Large Facility Workshop May 4 – 7, 2010

ASSE January 8, 2008

Steward Observatory December 13, 2007

Gemini Observatory August 2006

NOAO January 2003

Originally presented to the Southern Arizona ASSE Awards Banquet May 21,2002