

### **:: Common Sense ::**

Generally speaking we are not born with common sense, we acquire it throughout our life. Actually, common sense is really common experience – we learn about life from others' experiences as well as our own. Awareness of your environment, self-preservation and concern for your fellow workers are all factors in good common sense.

Contrary to popular opinion, all workers can prevent themselves from getting hurt. The easy way to avoid pain is to observe how others have taken risks and been injured rather than learning the hard way, from your own injury. Now that's common sense!

The experts say at least 80 percent of industrial accidents are caused by unsafe acts on the part of employees, not by unsafe conditions. Although an employer is required by law to provide a safe and healthful workplace, it is up to you to be aware of your work environment and follow safe work practices. By avoiding unsafe acts and practicing common sense, your work will go smoother with less chance for accidents.

#### **Statistically, most accidents are caused by unsafe acts including:**

##### **Being in a hurry**

Sometimes there is more concern for completing a job quickly instead of safely. Take time to do a good and safe job!

##### **Taking chances**

Daring behavior or blatant disregard for safe work practices can put the whole work team at risk. Follow all safety rules and procedures and watch out for your fellow employees. Remember, horseplay is never appropriate on the job and can lead to disciplinary action.

##### **Being preoccupied**

Daydreaming, "drifting off" at work, thinking about the weekend and not paying attention to your work can get you seriously hurt or even killed. Focus on the work you are paid to do. If your mind is troubled or distracted, you're definitely at risk to have a mishap!

##### **Having a negative attitude**

Being angry or in a bad mood can lead to severe accidents because anger nearly always rules over caution. Flying off the handle at work is potentially dangerous! Keep your bad moods in check, or more than one person may be hurt. Remember to stay cool and in charge of your emotions.

##### **Failing to look for hidden hazards**

Sometimes new, unexpected hazards develop on the job, so always be alert for changes in the environment. Hidden hazards include spilled liquids that could cause slips and falls, out-of-place objects or power cords across the walkway that can be tripped over, low overhead pipes that could mean a head injury and machinery that is not locked out while being serviced.

Remember to stay alert for hazards so you won't become one more accident statistic. You can do a quality job without rushing. Maintain a positive attitude and keep your mind on your work. This is just plain common sense, something smart workers use!