

:: Safety Rules ::

Have you ever wondered where many of the safety rules for OSHA, EPA and other agencies come from? Have you ever thought that maybe the people who wrote the rules just don't have a clue as to what's really going on in the field, or the production area, or even in the world, for that matter?

Let's take a look at some of the people who wrote the rules. It was the guy we've all heard about who cut off two of his fingers after he wired up the guard on a circular saw. He was helped to write the rules by the machinist who didn't have the time to go back to the lunch room for her safety glasses and lost an eye when the bit broke in the drill press. They both got advice from the fellow who had his head split open by a falling hammer because he just plain didn't like to wear hard hats.

In case you've missed the point, here it is another way: Each and every safety rule came about because someone was hurt, maimed or killed. Their misfortune contributed to our knowledge of how accidents happen and how to avoid them. Rules came into being in order to help you avoid a similar accident or injury.

Management is very interested in your safety! You have been provided with the necessary tools, equipment and working conditions that will help you do your best. But in return, certain things are expected from you. Your cooperation is expected in abiding by the rules, assisting your fellow workers with a willing attitude, helping your supervisor by following their instructions and by your valuable comments and suggestions.

Your cooperation is also required in maintaining physical fitness to perform your job, not showing up sick or under the influence of drugs or alcohol and by getting the proper rest at night. Your supervisor should be able to assist you in learning and abiding by applicable rules and policies, so you need to ask him/her if you are not sure about a safety procedure.

By cooperating and working together with your supervisor, a win-win situation is created that benefits everyone involved. The most obvious benefit is a safer and more productive work place, but a somewhat less obvious, and some would mistakenly say a selfish or greedy benefit, is a better profit margin for the company. Let's take a look at this "profit" benefit.

There is no doubt that if a safer and more productive work place is created, the company stands to make money because costs associated with lost productivity time due to injuries can be very high. The more money spent on lost-time injuries means less money used to show a profit. Having no injuries and the resulting workers compensation costs allow the company to become more competitive and enables its services to be marketed appropriately.

So, you see, safety rules benefit everyone. By working together with your supervisor and fellow employees to ensure a safe working environment, you are in many ways ensuring your own physical and financial well-being. It is not just a tired old phrase to say "**SAFETY FIRST.**" In fact, it's the only phrase that makes sense when it comes to getting the job done on time, under budget and, most importantly, contributing to a happier, healthier you when the job is complete.