



ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *ACCIDENT PREVENTION PLAN*

No one wants to have accidents on their jobs. No one wants to see one of their employees suffer, but we are in the construction industry and accidents are bound to happen, right? If your answer to that simple question is 'yes', then I submit that you are laying the mental ground work for failure.

There is no simple answer to successfully preventing accidents, but it absolutely must start with a personal belief that it can be done.

The formula for success may differ from one company to the next, but there are some key ingredients for all.

- Start with a belief that it is achievable to prevent all accidents. Only then, will you start making the right decisions;
- There must be sufficient and continuous training. Everyone must know how to work safely. How to plan their day with safety as their primary goal;
- You must empower your employees to work safely. Let them know that safety is your number one goal and they absolutely have the right to do whatever it takes to work safely; AND
- There must be a true commitment to safety - An unwavering commitment from the top of the company to the newest employee on the payroll. No exceptions, no shortcuts, nothing less than perfect is expected or tolerated.

Accident prevention is not just a catchy phrase. It has to be a way of life – a mindset. Every day, every employee must start their day with the mindset that they will not have an accident today. They must take a little time each day to plan their task for the day and how they're going to perform those tasks safely. What is the proper equipment I need to perform my work correctly? What Personal Protective Equipment will I need? Can I perform the task safely by myself, or do I need help?

Preventing accidents means that we all must look ahead and anticipate hazards. Most hazards that we face day to day are the result of routine tasks. We become so accustomed to doing some tasks that we lose the sense of danger. As a result, our sense of awareness diminishes to the point that we don't even recognize the hazard at all.

Everyone needs motivation. Employees will not stay motivated to work safely if they lose sight of what is truly important to them. Their motivation is themselves and their families, not the rules and regulations. Reminding them why safety is important to them will go a long way to helping them develop good safety habits.

Provided by the ASA – Houston Chapter Safety Committee – January 2011