

KWORDS *from* KWORCC

Attitude is Everything!

The Safest Person I Know

By Carl Potter, CSP, CMC, CSP and Deb Potter, Ph.D, CMC

Ask yourself this question, “Who is the safest person I know?” Did you name someone you used to work with or perhaps someone you work with now? Many people do.

The answer should be, “me.” If you can’t say you are the safest person you know, then you might want to think about what it means to make safety a personal thing.

Can A Company Be Safe?

If you talk to executives, managers, and employees about safety, often they will say, “We have a safe company.” Making that statement shows a great attitude and a high level of confidence. But how can a company “be safe?” To “be safe” one must show safe behavior. Although a company can promote safety by having a functional safety management process, it doesn’t really mean anything unless the people behave safely. So what does it mean to “be safe” and “be the safest person you know?”

Commit to Being A Safe Person

Do you follow the posted speed limit when driving? If you have broken the speed limit then you have behaved unsafely! Have you ever stood on a chair to reach an item on a shelf or change the blown bulb in the kitchen light? Guess what, you behaved unsafely. This sounds trivial, but if one can’t behave safely with everyday tasks, how can that person have safe behavior with less frequent tasks. The key is commitment.

At a recent conference, a speaker talked about commitment by asking, “Who is more committed to providing your breakfast, the chicken or the pig?” The chicken lays eggs and continues to do so day after day, but the pig gives everything to provide for breakfast. The commitment to behaving safely is shown by your action.

To show your commitment to safety, begin to *Do It Safely!* This is harder than you think, but the ultimate pay off is far reaching. Let’s take a look at some consequences to safe behavior.

Following the posted speed limit. First, you will not get a speeding ticket. The concept that you have to drive with the flow of the traffic is like saying, “If they all drive off a cliff I will follow.” On some holiday weekends, the highway patrol sets up on major highways and with the assistance of an aircraft, they pull over and ticket multiple drivers who are driving with the flow of traffic. Insurance companies have determined that people who do follow the posted speed limits have lower insurance cost and less damage cost to their vehicles.

Using a step stool instead of a kitchen chair. A fall from 18 to 24 inches can cause a severe sprain, torn ligaments and cracked or broken bones. This can be painful and uncomfortable to your body for days or weeks, not to mention the pain to your wallet. If you fall off of a chair changing the light bulb in the kitchen, don’t sue the maker of the chair!

Become the Safest Person You Know!

Examples abound, but the question remains, “Who is the safest person you know?” If your answer is, “me,” great! Make sure you live up to that belief and you’ll find yourself enjoying the benefits of working and living safe.



WELCOME!

Gene Miller

KWORCC’s Exclusive Claims Adjuster for Northeast Counties

Gene joined IMA in March, 2009. He brings 28 years of claims experience, including nine years with USF&C and nine years with Fireman’s Fund. He has extensive workers compensation background and has handled claims from Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. He is a graduate of Missouri State University with a BS in Agriculture. Gene has successfully completed several CPCU courses and has obtained the AIC designation. He is also a licensed adjuster in several states.

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CLAIMS REPORTING

For assistance with on-the-job injuries, contact IMA at 1-800-333-8913. Questions on claims should be directed to Susan May. All correspondence, bills or other documentation for your claims can be mailed to Susan's attention at: 8200 E 32nd Street North, Wichita, Kansas 67226.

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The Right Safety Attitude

Employees are paid for production. However, this doesn't mean you have to take safety shortcuts, since statistics indicate that high production and accident prevention go together like love and marriage.

Accidents cost money and must be paid for by the employer. This cost is not like the cost of materials, equipment or wages. There is no return for the employer or the injured employee on money spent as the result of an accident. Look at it this way: a good profitable business is an accident-free business.

When you buy a house, a car or any large item, you weigh the advantages and disadvantages before you invest your money. The same is true of investing your time and effort in safety, with one exception. You may decide to forego the expense of a new car, but should not - in fact cannot - afford to forego your safety investment.

A good safety attitude toward laws, rules and housekeeping practices is the best way to protect yourself and your fellow employees from accidents. What is your attitude about safety? People with bad attitudes or no attitudes about safety blame accidents on the law of averages. But accidents don't just happen - they are caused. Most accidents happen as a result of an unsafe condition, a bad safety attitude or both. People with bad attitudes are showing disregard for themselves and others.

People who take chances, who try to repair machines while they are running or remove a guard to make the work go quicker are showing a bad safety attitude. You can never be smart enough or quick enough to beat the odds!

What about good attitudes toward safety? All of us are required to follow certain procedures in our jobs, but that isn't enough. A good safety attitude is your best defense against injury. After all, you have the most to gain...or loose.

One way to build a good safety attitude is to learn your job well. Know the hazards. If you have problems, check with your supervisor.

Another way to develop a good safety attitude is to set an example for others. If you see a piece of scrap on the floor, or in the normal pathway, take the time to pick it up. It could cause an injury to someone else. This may sound too simple to work, but it really does. **Safe Attitudes are contagious.**

Safety Meeting Repros Attitude for Safety

Get an Attitude!

A BAD ATTITUDE For Safety Is...

- **Complacent:** on "automatic pilot" because a job has been done so often
- **Emotional:** angry or upset by something that has happened at home or at work
- **Tired:** worn out from too little sleep or too many hours on the job
- **Risk-taking:** does a job without enough training, doesn't pay enough attention to training, or takes shortcuts
- **Reckless:** thinks that safety rules aren't important or don't apply to **ME**
- **Selfish:** thinks that no one else is affected by **MY** actions
- **Careless:** Eats or smokes in work areas with hazardous materials or combustibles

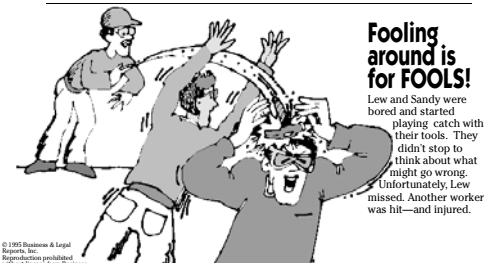
A BAD ATTITUDE sets you up for a painful accident!
Don't take a time-out for safety. Take it seriously ALL the time.

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Safety Meeting Repros Attitude for Safety

A GOOD ATTITUDE For Safety Means Being...

- **Attentive** to safety training and safety talks
- **Eager** to understand workplace procedures and asking questions about anything not understood
- **Alert** for anything that doesn't "feel" right and anything that could go wrong—before a job is started
- **Careful**, taking precautions, and wearing protective clothing and equipment
- **Focused** on the job
- **Team-oriented** and using the buddy system for hazardous tasks
- **Serious** about safety—never fooling around on the job



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Email Nicole at nicole@kworcc.com to receive copies of the above safety attitude posters.

Flagger Certification Training

KDOT requires that all construction zone workers who act as flaggers attend a flagger training class and pass a test in order to be certified. Flaggers are to carry their certification cards with them while flagging. KWORCC offers a flagger certification course which meets all of KDOT's requirements. If you have not already had all of your flaggers certified, call today and schedule a class with Carl Eyman.

Flaggers serve an important function in construction zones. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, other construction workers, the public and construction equipment. The National Safety Council reported there were 1,010 people killed in work zone accidents in 2006. Of these, 866 were motor vehicle occupants and 144 were construction workers or other pedestrians. There were also 37,688 people injured in work zone accidents in 2006. Of these 36,688 were motor vehicle occupants and 933 were construction workers or other pedestrians. The flagger is there to ensure everyone's safety. If the flagger is not safe then no one in the work zone is safe, which is why certification is so important.

Construction zone safety depends on you

Summertime is the prime time for completing road construction and improvement projects. In addition to finishing the work on time and within budget, it is always a challenge to balance the need to keep roads open for motorists with the need to provide a safe work zone for the crews. Road construction has become increasingly dangerous work due to impatient, distracted and unsafe drivers who disregard warning signs and flaggers.

Ignoring directions from flaggers or speeding through work zones is illegal, dangerous and counterproductive. Traffic fines are doubled in work zones and cannot be reduced, suspended or waived. Those who drive negligently in work zones or remove, evade or purposely strike safety devices can be found guilty of "endangerment of roadway workers."

Reckless motorists also slow down traffic for everyone else. When one driver ignores a flagger's direction to stop, it triggers a chain reaction. The flagger must protect the safety of the workers in the zone by either yelling or calling ahead. Traffic must be stopped until the unsafe conditions are

corrected, resulting in longer waits for other drivers. Further, the unsafe driver could possibly be injured by moving machinery or injure a member of the construction crew. If a worker or motorist is injured, the road could be closed for an extended period to deal with medical emergency.

Motorists should also use caution when there are no flaggers present if it is obvious they are in a construction zone. Obey the posted speed limit and do not cross into oncoming traffic to get around crews or equipment.

Here are some other common-sense tips for traveling through work zones:

- Slow down, pay attention and stay calm. The crews aren't there to personally inconvenience you. They are there to improve the roads for everyone;
- Merge to avoid a lane closure as soon as possible. Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by moving to the appropriate lane at first notice of an approaching work zone;
- Try an alternate route;
- Expect delays and plan for them by leaving early to reach your destination on time, and
- Some work zones - such as those involving road striping, patching or shoulder mowing - have moving equipment and mobile crews. Just because you don't see the workers immediately after you see the warning signs doesn't mean they are not out there. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says, "END ROAD WORK."





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Safety Video Library

KWORCC's library of safety videos is an excellent tool for your safety meetings.

A few spring or summer video suggestions:

Dog Bite Prevention	G-42
Killer Bees, Wasps and Spiders	G-104
Mowing Safety, Right-of-Way	G-75
Playgrounds, Safety Inspection & Maint.	G-46
Road Crew Safety	G-80
Safety On or Near Water	G-101
Ticks: They Can Bug You	G-41

Email Nicole at nicole@kworcc.com or give her a call at 877-357-1069 to order a safety video today.

2009 Board Meeting Dates

- ✓ January 15th
- ✓ February 19th
- ✓ March 27th
- ✓ April 16th
- ✓ May 14th
- ✓ June 18th
- July 16th
- August 13th
- September 17th
- October 16th
- November 16th – Annual Meeting
- December 10th