

A Positive Attitude



A Safe Attitude Can Lead to a Safe Workplace

Self-improvement professionals – from weight-loss experts to exercise gurus to motivational speakers – will tell you that attitude is everything. To make any type of positive change in your life, the change must first begin in your own mind. Unfortunately, an unsafe attitude toward workplace practices can have just as much influence on a person’s behavior as a positive attitude – except the consequences are often negative. Disregard for safety could lead to a serious workplace accident.

Listed below are six phrases, each reflecting an unsafe attitude that could lead to injury at work. Whenever you hear one of these phrases or something similar on the job, pay close attention to the situation. You may be able to stop an accident before it happens.

1. **We don’t have time for training.** Investing time in safety training ultimately saves far more time than it loses.

(Positive Attitude Continued on page 3)



Inside this Issue:

Safety Focus: Driving OHSU Vehicles	2
Positive Attitude Cont., Local News	3
Question of the Month	4

Shared Successes

The following are interesting progress notes from SafetyTeam members’ activities:

- A chemical spill was reported by the Radiology Department and it was cleaned up safely.
- The General Pediatrics Clinic found a safe needle device for a commonly used syringe in their area. Safe needle devices prevent needlesticks and create a safer environment for staff.
- A safety bulletin board has been put up in the Food Services Department. SafetyNews, SafetyFocus and the Food Service Safety Committee Minutes will be displayed here for all to see.

Please continue to submit your monthly member update forms so that your safety concerns continue to be addressed. Don’t forget to answer the Question of the Month, where correct answers will earn you valuable SafetyPoints!

Good Work Everyone!



Topic of the Month

This month's safety focus-topic is a discussion of:



Driving OHSU Vehicles

OHSU makes vehicles available to employees in departments such as Facilities Management and Logistics to allow them to do their jobs. All users of OHSU vehicles should know that they are expected to drive them in a safe manner, including:

- Comply with all State and Federal laws.
- Maintain a driver's license and safe driving record
- Adhere to speed limits and follow instructions on regulatory signage.
- Wear seatbelts.
- Yield right-of-way to avoid an accident.
- Secure all loads and contain hazardous cargo.
- Give driving your full attention, and minimize distractions of radio, cell phones, and eating.
- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol or attention-altering drugs.
- Watch for bicyclists and children in the road.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Avoid vehicle movements that might provoke "road rage" reactions from other drivers.
- Take periodic rest breaks to reduce fatigue.
- Report mechanical concerns immediately and remove the vehicle from service when unsure. Call the Motor Pool (503 494-8395) or your supervisor for support



- Follow all departmental vehicle use policies.

You should always give your vehicle a Pre-Trip Inspection that confirms the operation of all major systems:

- Lights, including head-, running-, and back-up lights.
- Brakes, including foot and emergency brakes.
- Seat adjustment
- Mirror adjustment, interior and exterior.
 - Tire condition.
 - Fluids, as appropriate.

Sometimes accidents are unavoidable and do happen. In this case, you **MUST** do ALL of the following:

- Fill out a DMV accident report (in the OHSU vehicle glove compartment) and submit it to Risk Management (Mail Code:L328).
- Immediately call the police (911) for all accidents occurring off-campus.
- Report on-campus accidents to Public Safety (4-4444).
- Notify your supervisor as soon after an accident as possible.
- Notify Risk Management (503 494-2451) within 24 hours of the accident.

If you have questions about driving any OHSU vehicle, notify your supervisor. Environmental Health & Radiation Safety has information about defensive driving courses for those departments considering offering such training.



Questions?
EHRIS: 503-494-7795

Work time is lost whenever an injury or illness occurs, and that employee's expertise is lost from the workplace. There's always time to train to work safely.

2. **Let's take a shortcut!**

People sometimes take shortcuts on the job because they don't think anything bad will happen. Taking the shortcut, bypassing safety precautions can lead to severe injury and time away from work.

3. **I think this is the right way to do it ...**

If you are unsure of the proper way to do something, ask your supervisor or consult with OHSU Environmental Health and Radiation Safety: 503-494-7795.

4. **Rules don't change that often.**

In truth, rules change on a fairly regular basis.

5. **We'll fix it later.**

No employee should be allowed to work with damaged equipment, whether it is medical equipment, a wheelchair or even an office chair. A broken part can fly off and injure someone – and in the case of a vehicle, the machine may malfunction or even tip over. Defective items need to be taken out of commission immediately.

6. **It's not in the budget.**

All potential safety hazards are evaluated with the risks in mind. Identified problems that also have a high potential to occur, as well as a high potential for injury must be corrected as soon as possible.

Big Benefits

A positive attitude towards safety in the workplace has many benefits! When there are less injuries, there is less cost, higher productivity and increased morale. Positive attitudes pay off!

Q of M Answer!

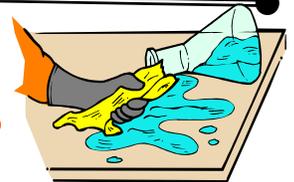
Last month's Question of the Month was from the Focus Topic, "Personal Disaster Supplies"

The question was, **"What are three items that should be in your personal disaster supply kit?"**

1. **Flashlight with extra batteries.**
2. **Battery powered radio**
3. **Non-perishable food**

Thank you to everyone who participated! If you answered correctly, you earned 1 SafetyPoint! Contact Kristine Abrahamson at 503 494-0215 for answers to your questions.

Local News



In August 2006, a research lab worker at the University of Washington suffered an injury caused by a chemical burn. The employee slipped and fell while carrying a waste container. The container held a mixture of phenol and other chemicals. Fortunately, the employee was not seriously injured. This could easily happen at OHSU, since we similarly transport chemicals.

To minimize the chance of injury, all chemicals should be in shatterproof containers, and/or in secondary containers while being transported to prevent a spill and injury.

OHSU has a Chemical Spill Response Team available 24/7. You can request their services by calling Public Safety at **4-4444** for assistance.





Slow down in Construction Work Zones!

SAFETYNEWS

4

September 2006

Question of the Month

The question of the Month is designed to challenge your safety knowledge and give you a chance to earn some cool, free stuff!



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What are three examples of driving in a safe manner?

Write your answer to the question in the appropriate box on your Monthly Member Update Form: <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/ehrs/mh/pages/safetyteam/mmuf.shtml>. Correct answers to this month's Question will earn 1 SafetyPoint.

If you would like to become a member, contact Kristine Abrahamson, SafetyTeam Coordinator at 503 494-7795.



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HEALTH & SCIENCE
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OHSU includes four schools; two hospitals; numerous primary care and specialty clinics; multiple research institutes; and several public service and outreach units. OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

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