

Safety Awareness Ideas

Here are some quick and easy ways to help your employees be more aware of safety every day. These ideas *cannot* take the place of a true safety program, but they can help.

1. ***Lead Supervisors Can Give Weekly Five-Minute Safety Talks.*** Topics for discussion can include recent injuries at the plant, trends, regulations, policies, etc. Supervisors' evaluations can depend at least in part upon their holding these sessions.
2. ***Involve Everyone in Safety Efforts, from the Newest Employee ...***
Assign new workers to walk through the plant, observing until they find one safety violation. The new employee reports the unsafe condition to his or her trainer, who must then respond appropriately or assign correction of the hazard to the responsible person. This exercise can be part of regular training for each new employee.
3. ***... to Top Management.*** Each member of upper management should serve a term on the safety committee, and/or attend safety meetings each month. Not only will this demonstrate management's commitment to safety, but it will bring fresh faces and ideas to the safety program. Of course, this will work only when top management fully supports this idea; if the management "invitee" fails to attend, workers will be even more skeptical!
4. ***Use Random Safety Surveys to Reward Safe Workers.*** Develop a safety checklist for each department or work area, and use it to conduct a random survey of each area. Areas that demonstrate at least 95% compliance may receive a reward, such as leaving early on Friday. Another easy reward is to open the vending machines for one break.
5. ***What's Wrong With This Picture?*** Take photographs of trip hazards, housekeeping problems, unlabeled chemicals or other safety hazards around the plant. Post the photos on employee bulletin boards, and invite workers to submit entries to identify the hazards and suggest solutions. Draw winners from the correct entries. Prizes could be gift certificates, lunch tickets, small merchandise, etc.
6. ***Get the Big Picture with an Accident Scene Map.*** Much as police track crimes on maps, you can track accidents by using push pins on a diagram of the plant. Use different colors to represent different types of injuries. Employees – and the safety committee – can easily understand patterns of injuries, or identify specific work areas where injuries occur more often.

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