



Safety Leader – By Example

How many times have you heard a child (of any age) exclaim "it's not my fault!" or "it wasn't me!"?

Whether or not these statements are true is beside the point, what we are talking about is how we conduct ourselves and what image we project to those around us.

A responsible, conscientious person will say "it's not my fault, but it's my problem."

These individuals identify themselves by their actions; they pick up that piece of garbage on the ground, they're quick to lend a co-worker a hand or show them a better, safer way. They step up and take the high road any chance they get.

Why? Because to these people, they see an opportunity every time a situation presents itself: An opportunity to eliminate a trip hazard, an opportunity to lighten the load for a co-worker or to help them keep out of harm's way.

They may not be a supervisor or a lead, but they lead by example, they answer to themselves.

When you hear "Ah...somebody's bound to get that", they are that somebody, for them there's always something to do, always an opportunity.

They project an image of accountability and carry a reputation for getting things done and asking, "what else can we help you with".

When you get enough of these people working together (there's never enough, always looking for new members) you get a company of people that do the right things, follow safe work procedures, help and look out for each other and co-workers throughout the site.

In a strong safety culture, everyone feels responsible for safety and pursues it on a daily basis. In this type of environment, employees go beyond the call of duty to identify unsafe conditions and behaviors and intervene to correct them. For instance, in a strong safety culture, any worker would feel comfortable walking up to the plant manager or CEO and reminding him or her to wear safety glasses. This type of behavior would not be viewed as forward or overzealous but rather would be valued and rewarded.



Every worker needs to understand that safety must be the first focus of his or her job. The final responsibility for safety is not the responsibility of the safety person, but of each employee doing the work. After all, at the end of every day, the workers are the ones safely returning home – or not.

SAFETY REMINDER

Influencing safety culture is more about leadership than management – be a Safety Leader.