



## Seeing Accidents Before They Happen

Many diverse jobs are performed in industry every day, but one aspect remains constant for all tasks: it is part of everyone's duty to perform the job as safely as possible. To perform a job in a safe manner, a worker must understand the hazards involved and how to prevent them. Recognizing hazards or seeing accidents before they happen. Learn the common causes of accidents, how to develop a safety awareness and why it is important to take responsibility for his or her own safety.

### HOUSEKEEPING

- All tools should be kept where they belong until it is time to use them.
- Accidents often occur when workers find it easier to use the wrong tool rather than search for the correct one.
- Flammables should be stored away from ignition sources and all trash disposed of properly.
- Walkways and aisles should remain clear of obstacles and debris.

### TRIPS AND SLIPS

- Always report any spills that create a slipping hazard to your supervisor so it can be cleaned up immediately.
- Correct any tripping hazards right away. Safety is a team effort; don't assume someone else will do it.

### LADDER SAFETY

- When using ladders, make sure the base is secure and out of the path of traffic flow; the base may need to be barricaded.
- Be sure that the spreader is in the locked position when using a step ladder.
- Before climbing, inspect the steps and your shoes for slippery substances.
- Never stand on the top two rungs of a ladder; if you can't reach something, climb down and move the ladder.

### LIFT TRUCKS AND LOADS

- In areas where lift trucks are in operation, stay alert for blind intersections and corners.



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- Never walk behind a lift truck or stand close enough to it for a sudden movement to hit you.
- Never allow yourself to get underneath a raised load; stand clear of loads that are being lifted because they have a tendency to swing.
- Inspect all lifting equipment to see that it is good condition before each use.

#### MOVING MACHINERY

- Machines cannot see accidents before they happen. We must recognize the hazards involved with moving machinery.
- Long hair, jewelry or loose clothing should not be worn around equipment in motion.
- Never operate equipment without the proper guards in place; never bypass or defeat a guard.
- Workers who are not trained or authorized should stay clear of moving machinery.

#### BACK INJURIES

- Since most back injuries are caused by improper lifting techniques, you should recognize the hazards of a lifting situation and be sure to lift properly.
- Get help for items that cannot be lifted alone safely.
- When lifting, bend your knees and keep your back straight; lift with your legs, not your back.
- Avoid twisting while lifting.

#### LOCKOUT/TAGOUT

- All forms of energy must be isolated, blocked, locked and tagged when work is performed on equipment powered by electricity.
- This also applies to other energy sources such as mechanical, pneumatic, chemical or the effects of gravity.
- Anyone servicing equipment must be trained and authorized.
- Stay alert for situations that require lock out/tag out procedures and administer the proper tests that assure you the equipment is safe to service.