

SEE-MORE SAFETY SAYS...



TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SAFETY FOR SUPERVISORS

Your job in management places you in a unique position of trust. For not only does the company rely on you, as the direct representative of management, to apply its policies wisely and fairly; also entrusted to you is the obligation to safeguard the well-being of the workers in your charge. No responsibility transcends this in importance. In this respect your job is akin to the “stewardship” of Biblical days: As a supervisor, you are indeed your brother’s keeper.

On-the-job accidents represent a serious threat to the physical well-being of your men. Their prevention calls for your constant vigilance. Therefore, if you would guide your men safely through their daily work, be yourself guided by these precepts:

1. You are a supervisor and thus, in a sense, have two families. Care for your people at work as you would care for your people at home. Be sure each of your men understands and accepts his personal responsibility for safety.
2. Know the rules of safety that apply to the work you supervise. Never let it be said that one of your men was injured because you were not aware of the precautions required on his job.
3. Anticipate the risks that may arise from changes in equipment or methods. Make use of the expert safety advice that is available to help you guard against such new hazards.
4. Encourage your men to discuss with you the hazards of their work. No job should proceed where a question of safety remains unanswered. When you are receptive to the ideas of your workers, you tap a source of first-hand knowledge that will help you prevent needless loss and suffering.
5. Instruct your men to work safely, as you would guide and counsel your family at home – with persistence and patience.
6. Follow up your instructions consistently. See to it that workers make use of the safeguards provided them. If necessary, enforce safety rules by disciplinary action. Do not fail the company, which has sanctioned these rules – or your workers, who need them.
7. Set a good example. Demonstrate safety in your own work habits and personal conduct. Do not appear as a hypocrite in the eyes of your men.
8. Investigate and analyze every accident – however slight – that befalls any of your men. Where minor injuries go unheeded, crippling accidents may later strike.
9. Cooperate fully with those in the organization who are actively concerned with employee safety. Their dedicated purpose is to keep your men fully able and on the job and to cut down the heavy personal toll of accidents.
10. Remember: Not only does accident prevention reduce human suffering and loss; from the practical viewpoint, it is no more than good business. Safety, therefore, is one of your prime obligations – to your company, your fellow managers, and your fellow man.

By leading your men into “thinking safety” as well as working safely day by day, you will win their loyal support and cooperation. More than that, you will gain in personal stature. **Good men do good work for a good leader.**