

Toolbox

Safety Series



STAY ON GUARD

Why do we have these brief safety talks? Why do we always have to think about safety?

One of the major reasons is that in order to be safe, you have to be alert. You must be on your guard at all times. By talking about safety you develop and strengthen safe work habits.

One of the worst things you can do is to let your guard down by becoming preoccupied with other things.

We all have personal problems that plague us to one degree or another: health, bills, the future, or perhaps preoccupation stemming from illness or fatigue.

Such preoccupation is a major factor in many on-the-job mishaps that are sometimes mistakenly labeled freak accidents.

When you become lost in thought, you are off guard. You've let your defenses down and are wide open to an accident.

If a person is blind or deaf, they learn to compensate for their handicap. Their other senses become more alert. When you are preoccupied, you are blind and deaf, but you don't know it. You are unguarded.

But how do you guard against preoccupation? How, indeed, can you detect that preoccupation has reached the point, either in yourself or others, that you're easy prey to hazards or hazardous conditions?

If we knew the answer to this, it would mean a major breakthrough in the field of safety. It would be nice to be able to take a reading of someone's brain waves to see if they were lost in thought and open to an accident.

But we don't have that ability. So we must do the best we can. We do this by trying to make safety something that comes natural to us all, even when we are not consciously thinking about it.

These safe work habits will then be so strong. Even if you become preoccupied at times, your safe habits will prevent you from having an accident.

Reducing the possibility of accidents due to preoccupation is a matter of preventive safety, and that's one of the reasons we're having this talk.

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LEADER NOTES

Objective: To reinforce the concept of staying on guard and to avoid preoccupation with outside influences.

THE TALK - POINTS TO COVER

- Why do we have these brief safety talks? Why do we always have to think about safety?
- One of the major reasons is that in order to be safe, you have to be alert.
- One of the worst things that you can do is to let your guard down by becoming preoccupied with other things.
- We all have personal problems that plague us to one degree or another.
- Such preoccupation is a major factor in many on-the-job mishaps.
- When you become lost in thought, you are off guard.
- When you are preoccupied, you are blind and deaf, but you don't know it. You are unguarded.
- How do you guard against preoccupation?
- We do this by trying to make safety something that comes natural to all of us, even when we are not consciously thinking about it.
- These safe work habits will then be so strong, that even if you become preoccupied at times, your safe habits will prevent you from having an accident.
- Reducing the possibility of accidents due to preoccupation is a matter of preventive safety, and that's one of the reasons why we're having this talk.

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Location: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____
Number of employees: _____ Number attending: _____

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:

Other safety issues or suggestions made by employees:

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____
(Signature)

Supervisor: _____
(Signature)