

# Toolbox

## Safety Series



### YOU'RE THE LOSER

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Cost of living, inflation, taxes --- these are things we all are very much concerned about. They're topics that creep into every conversation at work and at home because they deal with money. It's funny how people express concern over living costs and then ignore a very important factor in keeping costs at a minimum; **SAFETY**.

On-the-job accidents cost the U.S. economy millions of dollars every hour of the work day. The sources who compile these statistics go on to say that this adds up to billions of dollars per year. That's a substantial drain on the economy, and we all pay for it in our roles as taxpayers, wage-earners, and consumers. Each of us individually is the big loser when someone is injured. Safety should be important to cost-conscious people. It's not the only reason but it may be the one reason some people understand.

Safety is part of doing a good job. You can't get hurt and still do a good job. There's pain. The paycheck may stop, bills pile up, and the cupboard starts to get bare.

If all this is true, then how come some people ignore safety rules? Some reasons are quite obvious. Accident-prone people are those who are likely to break any rules they consider unimportant. This may be based on an over-inflated sense of self-confidence.

People who disregard safety rules may also be reckless, both on and off the job. They're confident that accidents always happen to the other guy. There are many good reasons for being safe, but you can narrow it all down to just one – yourself. You are the loser. You either play it safe, or you trust your luck. There is no in-between. Make safety a part of your job or you become a risk taker.

Hazards exist in many forms. We attempt to keep them to a minimum around here. We try to send you home in good condition at the end of the work day. We can only do it with your cooperation. You are important to this company or you wouldn't be here. You're also important to your family and your community.

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#### **LEADER NOTES**

**Objective:** To reinforce the concept that accidents are expensive and the injured party is the loser in all cases.

#### **THE TALK - POINTS TO COVER**

- Cost of living, bills, taxes --- these are things we all are very much concerned about.
- It's funny how people express concern over living costs and then ignore a very important factor in keeping costs at a minimum; **SAFETY**
- On-the-job accidents cost the U.S. economy millions of dollars every hour of the work day.
- Safety should be important to cost-conscious people.
- Safety is part of doing a good job. You can't get hurt and still do a good job.
- Why do some people ignore safety rules?
  - Accident-prone people are likely to break rules that they consider unimportant.
  - This may be based on an over-inflated sense of self-confidence.
  - People who disregard safety rules may also be reckless, both on and off the job.
  - They're confident that accidents always happen to the other guy.
- There are many good reasons for being safe, but you can narrow it all down to just one – yourself.
- Hazards exist in many forms. We attempt to keep them to a minimum around here.
- You are important to this company, to your family and your community.

