

Safety News

WORK SAFE INFO
FROM THE
SNOHOMISH COUNTY
SAFETY OFFICE

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Unsafe Acts

Accidents are caused by two things – unsafe acts or unsafe conditions. Thorough investigations reveal that a majority of accidents are the result of unsafe acts, or things we do when we know better. So why would we deliberately expose ourselves to potential injury if we know better?

“It won’t happen to me” is a common thought.

Most of us are just thinking about getting the job done and we tend to rationalize the risk of getting injured. We may have done this job many times without anything bad happening. Therefore we rationalize that nothing bad will happen this time either. We realize that there is a potential danger, but decide that the risk of being injured is low. Because we haven’t been injured yet, we believe that we are being safety conscious. We know the right way to do the job; we know it is hazardous to do it this way, but what we are really thinking is “it won’t happen to me.”

Taking short cuts is a common action.

Many of us are thorough in following safe work practices, but because a job “will only take a minute” we use an unsafe method or tool. For example, not putting on our personal protective equipment because this adjustment, “will just take a second”, or I can’t find the right tool/part but this is close enough. We may justify an unsafe act because it saves time to do it this way.

Usually we think about it just before we do something a little unsafe, or maybe quite unsafe. We know the safe way to do the job but we take that little chance. Maybe it is human nature to think that accidents always happen to someone else, but they can happen to you too. *What makes you accident proof?*



MATT ERICKSON
(Safety Specialist) 425.388.3892

JOHN NAVROTH
(Safety Officer) 425.388.3549
Email: SafetyOffice@co.snohomish.wa.us

ROGER MANEVAL
(Safety Specialist – Solid Waste Div.)
425.388.7001