



## TOOLBOX TALK #13

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 13

### ATTITUDES ABOUT SAFETY

Our attitudes about safety will determine the success or failure of our zero injury goal. This company can comply with and exceed every OSHA regulation, provide every known safety device, make statements and issue policies about workplace safety and do any number of other things to prevent accidents and injuries. But, if we don't have a positive and supportive attitude about our safety, we are going to have accidents.

Our work crew is a team. If any member of this team doesn't share in our "zero injury" goal, it will pull the entire crew down. This isn't acceptable. We are professionals at what we do, and safety on the job is a professional skill.

Let's consider another type of team: a football team. What do you suppose the effect on a team would be if just one offensive lineman refused to wear his helmet? Is that a matter of personal choice for that player? What if that player says the helmet is too confining or uncomfortable and it's his head to do with as he pleases? To some degree it might be, but the quarterback would pay a heavy price too, because he would be one getting clobbered immediately after the lineman went down. The offense would be ineffective as a result of this "personal choice" because they wouldn't be able to move the ball. The entire team would be affected because they would lose the game.

Of course, the coach wouldn't let this happen. The coach would bench the lineman and replace him with someone who understood that safety rules don't just protect one individual – they serve the best interests of the entire team.

It's the same way here. We shouldn't look at safety as a personal choice issue, because it goes much further than that. Following exemplary safety standards demonstrates professionalism and skill, and makes us champions in the construction industry. Safety in our industry is not a choice. It's a necessity, and every one of us should be proud that we do our jobs safer than any of our competitors. That's what makes us winners.

Facilitator Notes: In using the example given, personalize it by using the name of a favorite professional or college football team. Use the talk to instill a sense of unity in purpose among your crew regarding safety. Incorporate positive peer pressure to help motivate every member of your crew to see safety as an effective way to demonstrate excellence and superiority in the field of construction. Build pride in working safely.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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List additional attendees on back of sheet