



TOOLBOX TALK #19

IF ZERO INJURIES IS OUR GOAL, WHAT HAPPENS IF WE HAVE AN INJURY?

It's probably occurred to everyone that we would fail in our goal of zero injuries if we had an injury. It's only fair that you should ask what happens in that event. The first thing to understand is that our goal is firm and with your support and participation we will achieve it. But, if we had an accident at noon today, where what would happen then?

The answer is: The clock would start running again at 12:01 p.m. Our goal would remain zero injuries. There is no end date for this goal. It's permanent here.

This shouldn't distract us from our mission. We will achieve our goal. It's a part of our company's philosophy of doing business and it's a testimony to the professional pride of each member of this crew. If we do have an injury, our goal doesn't cease to exist. We will learn from the accident and use that information to continue building our reputation as the safest company in the metal buildings industry.

All of this does bring up a good point. You have an unconditional obligation to report accidents and injuries. That is as much a part of our safety program as the zero injuries goal itself. Under no circumstances should any member of this work crew conceal an accident or injury. Our "zero injury" goal would be just as lost if the injury were not reported. In fact, that would make things worse, because we would lose the ability to learn from the accident and prevent it from happening again. We do not discipline our workers for injuries. Unsafe acts and bad attitudes are another matter. But the injuries themselves must be properly and promptly treated, and the accidents must be investigated and prevented.

So, our goal is in place and we are going to succeed. If the unthinkable happens, we start over and keep the faith. This is consistent with our policy that zero injuries are a never-ending objective.

Facilitator Notes: Use this discussion as an opportunity to reinforce your company's commitment to the personal safety of each one of its employees. By now, your crew should know that you are driven to protect them from injuries and this should give them confidence that the company shares your passion for safety. Don't fake anything. Speak in terms that demonstrate to your crew that zero injuries are, in fact, a permanent goal.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____

Date/Time _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet