



## TOOLBOX TALK #5

### UNSAFE ACTS VERSUS UNSAFE CONDITIONS

We spend a lot of time talking about safety rules and policies that our company has in place to protect you. Most of these policies relate to specific safety issues and many of these issues related to the conditions in which we work and how we can create a safe work environment.

In fact, that term *work environment* that we use quite describes the conditions of our job site or workplace. It is essential that we maintain safe work conditions. It's company policy, it's my personal rule, and it's the law. However, the vast majority of accidents are caused not by unsafe conditions, but by unsafe acts. I would even go so far as to say an unsafe condition is caused by an unsafe act. If there is a spill on a ramp creating an unsafe slip and fall **condition** it is there because someone first caused the spill and then secondly hasn't cleaned it up. That's two unsafe acts for one unsafe condition.

Ignoring an unsafe condition is an unsafe act. Some safety people say that 90% of all accidents are caused by unsafe acts.

When we talk about safety, always remember that our goal of zero injuries is entirely dependent on you. We are all equal partners with the company owners when it comes to safety. If the safety people are right, we can make our jobs 90% safer by our own actions. And, understand this, our safety program is important and it will be enforced. If you see someone acting in an unsafe manner, you should point it out to the co-worker and let him know it must stop. You will be doing that person a favor.

Our actions, each day and on every job site, is by far the most important facet of our safety efforts. If we act responsibly and professionally, we will be successful in making our company the safest place to work in the industry.

Facilitator Notes: This is a good time to encourage personnel to help supervise one another. Let them know that correcting unsafe behavior should be seen as a positive action, and experienced workers should actively share their knowledge with less experienced workers. Play up the team effort aspect and continue to build support for the company's safety commitment.

**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