

Contact Safety

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Mine Safety & Training Section

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ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Summer is upon us in the great State of Nevada, and with it comes warm weather and increased outdoor activities. This time can also lead to increased accident rates in the workplace. Now is a great opportunity for us to take some time and raise awareness on what are some of the common causes or factors that lead to accidents and what can be done by each of us to prevent accidents. While there can be many factors that contribute to accidents, most experts agree that there are seven common factors.

Factor #1 – Shortcuts

Have you ever knowingly taken a shortcut when completing a job or workplace task? We may, at times take shortcuts because it will make the job faster or more efficient. Other times, we may take shortcuts out of laziness. However, taking a shortcut can reduce your safety as well as that of co-workers. If workers feel there is a quicker, more efficient way to complete a task, they should address it with management and ensure a job hazard analysis or risk assessment is completed.

Factor #2 – Overconfidence

We all need to have confidence in our ability to complete a job or task. However, we have all heard the phrase “too much is never a good thing.” This holds true with being too confident or overconfident when it comes to the

workplace. By being overconfident, an employee runs the risk of failing to follow procedures or methods correctly when using equipment or completing a task. It is always best, no matter how comfortable and trained you are with a job, task or piece of equipment to maintain a healthy respect for it.



Factor #3 – Inadequate or Poor Housekeeping

Inadequate or poor housekeeping is one of the most commonly cited violations by MSATS inspectors. The appearance of workplace will tell us a great deal about the operation and their attitude towards safety and accident prevention. Overcrowded, cluttered and disorganized workplaces result in not only lower production rates but increased accident rates. Companies that stress the importance of maintaining a clean and organized workplace and set a high standard for employees to follow will reduce workplace hazards.

Factor #4 – Incomplete training or Instructions

Workplace accidents can be the results of several factors. However, when reviewing historical data, incomplete training or inadequate instructions are one of the more commonly cited factors. The most productive, efficient and safest way to complete a job or task is to do it correctly the first time. This means employees need to be trained and have all the necessary information or instructions necessary to do the job. In addition, employees need to feel free to ask questions prior to starting a task if they are unsure about what to do.

Factor #5 – Neglecting Safety Procedures

Neglecting safety procedures is never a wise decision. Safety procedures are put in place to reduce accidents. Doing things like bypassing guards or safety stops, or not wearing required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), not only puts you the employee at risk, but it puts your fellow co-workers at risk as well.

Factor #6 – Distractions

We are all affected by everyday life. As they say, life is typically full of ups and downs. These moments not only affect us privately but they can find their way to work. Distractions like an illness, marital problems, substance

abuse or just thinking about an upcoming holiday or vacation can cause you to become distracted at work. While it is difficult to do, workers need to reduce distractions and stay focused on the task at hand.

Factor #7 – Failure to Plan or Prepare

In the workplace, a failure to plan or prepare can have detrimental consequences. By completing Job Hazard Analysis, Job Safety Analysis, Risk Assessments and daily workplace exams prior to starting a job or task, employers and employees can not only reduce accidents, they can ensure the job is done correctly the first time.

Mining is a dangerous occupation, however, by being aware of the factors discussed above, employers and employees can work towards preventing accidents all together. Through planning and training, following safety procedures, enforcing housekeeping, limiting distractions and discouraging shortcuts, the workplace can be safe and productive.

**SAFETY
IS EVERYBODY'S
RESPONSIBILITY!**

QUIZ

1) Most experts agree that there are _____ common causes of accidents in the workplace.

2) If workers feel there is a quicker, more efficient way to complete a task, they should address it with _____

3) One of the most commonly cited violations by MSATS inspectors is _____

4) Distractions such as _____, _____ and _____ can cause you to become distracted at work.

If there is any specific topics you would like to learn more about please write on line below.

Employee: _____ **Date:** _____

Mine/Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____