



Safety Scene

Back to the Basics

by Molly E. Butz

“For safety is not a gadget
but a state of mind.”
—Eleanor Everet

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to refocus your safety program and get back to the basics. There are certainly plenty of hazards in a component manufacturing plant that can lead to injury or illness, but you may find that taking care of the little things can make each day a little more safe. Take a few moments the next time you hold a toolbox talk or Monday morning safety meeting to go over the following quick and easy ways your employees can be more focused on safety as they work each day. (Better yet, visit **Support Docs** at www.sbcmag.info to download a formatted poster you can hand out or post in each department!)

- Be aware of your environment.
- Concentrate on YOUR responsibilities.
- Always report any safety or health concerns to a supervisor immediately.
- Never operate any machinery unless you have been formally and properly trained.
- Make sure you understand and follow all safety guidelines!
- Lock the facility when no one is present.
- Never leave a running machine unattended.
- Regularly (once per week) check all hand tools, portable power tools and other equipment. Report any concerns to your supervisors so that the equipment can be fixed or replaced.



- Wear your assigned personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Regularly (once per week) check all PPE that has been assigned to you. Report any concerns to your supervisors so that the PPE can be fixed or replaced.
- Maintain good housekeeping.
 - Clean up spills immediately.
 - Keep walkways and stairs free of tripping hazards.
 - Keep all hand and power tools in their proper places.
- Avoid wearing jewelry and loose clothing around machinery.
- Smoke in designated smoking areas only.
- Use all equipment only for its intended purpose.
- Never hesitate to ask questions!

at a glance

- The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to renew your focus on a safety program.
- Finding the time to take care of little things that have the potential to turn into big hazards can make each day more safe.

Many, if not all, of the items on this list may seem like common sense, and they are! But it's easy to lose sight of the simple things over the course of a year that every person can do to ensure that each day is as safe as possible. **SBC**

To pose a question for this column or to learn more about WTCA's Operation Safety Program, contact WTCA Staff at 608/274-4849, email wtca@woodtruss.com, or view the Operation Safety demonstration online at www.wtcalco.com.

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