



Training Solutions, Delivered!

**ACCIDENTS AREN'T
JUST ONE OF
THOSE THINGS
*(Concise)***

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet
& Quiz**

Item Number: 3220
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This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

3220 ACCIDENTS AREN'T JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS (Concise) FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 10 MINUTES

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

With 20 years of experience as a firefighter and paramedic, Martin Lesperance has treated thousands of injuries and medical emergencies that have resulted from the poor choices and decisions people make every day. As a best-selling author and popular safety speaker, Martin takes his experiences and molds them into entertaining and thought-provoking safety presentations. Some of his unique safety insights might just save your life.

In this program, Martin shares his experiences and stories with a live audience. He addresses many important safety issues that all employees need to hear, including the following:

- Accidents aren't "just one of those things;" the injuries we call "accidents" can be prevented.
- We all have reasons to work safely other than just ourselves.
- Think of the repercussions of your actions.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

After watching the program, the viewer will be able to explain the following:

- What "ripple effects" result from an injury;
- Why we must think of the repercussions of our actions;
- Why accidents aren't "just one of those things."

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:

MICHAEL'S STORY: THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF AN INJURY

Martin opens the presentation with the story of Michael, a husband and father of two. Michael was cleaning his gutters when he suffered a tragic injury. He had been getting down to reposition the ladder every few feet and then scaled it again to scoop out the leaves. When he got near the end of the house, Michael hesitated—he knew he should get down and move the ladder again—and decided to take "a little bit of a risk." He leaned over too far, lost his balance and the ladder tipped over. Michael landed on a wooden fence around a flowerbed below. He suffered several shattered vertebrae and a severe spinal injury that resulted in permanent paralysis.

Martin tells the audience, "That day things changed forever. There is a ripple effect when an accident happens." The injury affected every aspect of Michael's life: his role as a husband, lover, father and employee. "When a person chooses to work or play in an unsafe manner, they are committing a very selfish act. Not only is injury prevention for the person who's injured, it's also for the people left behind," says Martin.

"It was because of Michael and other people like him who I've attended to in the past twenty years that I set a goal to try to prevent injuries from happening to people. And I do it because I really don't like seeing people hurt," Martin continues.

"Workplace injuries are especially disturbing because people don't wake up in the morning to go to work so they can lose a hand, become paralyzed or die. People go to work for a paycheck so they can provide for their families," says Martin.

Martin goes on to say that his two daughters are the reason he works and plays safe, and notes that everyone has reasons for staying safe.

"Today I want to talk about three things:

- 1) How injury prevention is about more than life and death;
- 2) The misuse of the word "accident"; and,
- 3) Some general safety tips to remember the next time you consider taking a risk."

INJURY PREVENTION IS MORE THAN LIFE OR DEATH

Martin states that people tend to think “everything’s going to be okay” when an injured person’s condition is upgraded from critical to serious. It really means that the person stands a good chance of not dying, but doesn’t mean everything is going to be okay.

“Michael’s injuries certainly didn’t kill him, but when he hit the ground things certainly weren’t okay,” says Martin.

Martin asks the audience how their families would be affected if they were seriously injured, in constant pain and had to get around with a walker. “How would you be affected if your spouse was in that condition? Would it cause extra stress on the family and financial problems? You bet it would!” Even professionals can make horrible mistakes, according to Martin.

TIP: Think of The Repercussions of Your Actions.

EVEN PROFESSIONALS MAKE DEADLY MISTAKES

Every day professional electricians, truck drivers, carpenters, iron workers, lift truck operators and countless other workers make the same kind of deadly mistakes. Martin then gives several examples of workers who have been killed due to their errors in judgment.

“Even though you have the proper safety equipment, even though you have the proper safety training, you still have to use the best safety tool that you have—and that is your brain. You have to think!” Martin exclaims.

ACCIDENTS AREN’T “JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS”

Next Martin talks about several incidents that people may regard as accidents, but really aren’t accidents at all. First he describes a news report with an interview of a friend of five teenagers killed in a car wreck. The girl being interviewed said the accident was tragic, but “it was an accident, just one of those things.”

Martin tells the audience about other so-called accidents:

- A guy carrying a ladder came in contact with a power line and was electrocuted;
- A flag person didn’t see or hear the dump truck that ran over her;
- A machine operator who thought he was faster than the machine put his arm in to unplug it and lost his arm up to his shoulder;
- A three-year-old boy pushed through a screen and fell to his death from the fourth story of an apartment building;
- An 18-month-old child was killed when his father backed over him in the driveway;

Martin points out that these are not accidents and not “just one of those things.” They didn’t have to happen. The definition of accident includes the words “unpredictable” and “unavoidable.” He concludes, “You could call these ‘fatalities,’ ‘tragedies,’ or ‘incidents,’ but don’t call them accidents because they were not. They were not just one of those things.”

TIP: Wear Your Personal Protective Equipment.

To illustrate the importance of wearing the appropriate PPE, Martin gives examples of injuries he has attended. The victims, who weren’t wearing PPE, suffered such injuries as burned eyes and amputated feet.

“Personal protective equipment only works if you wear it. It does no good hanging on a wall or sitting in a locker. It’s there for a reason. Use it!” Martin tells the audience.

TIP: If You Notice A Dangerous Situation, Fix It Immediately.

The presentation continues with Martin making the point that you should make an effort to correct any unsafe situation that you en. He asks the audience how they would feel if they had seen someone on an unstable ladder and chose to just walk on by. Then 10 minutes later the person suffered a fall and was taken to the hospital in critical condition. After the person’s condition is upgraded to serious, you go to the hospital and tell him, “If there’s anything I can do to help you, let me know.” Even worse, you go to the funeral and look at the person’s children and spouse and offer your condolences.

Everyone is thinking this has been a horrible accident, but it's just one of those things. "You have a hard time looking the spouse and children in the eye because you know it wasn't an accident, wasn't just one of those things," says Martin.

IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING INJURIES

You don't have to be a genius or have a high IQ to prevent injuries, according to Martin. "To prevent injuries, you have to stop and slow down, and think about the repercussions of your actions. Who else will be affected if I choose to take a silly risk?" he asks.

He closes the presentation by asking audience members to put his safety tips into action so they can save time, money, tears and maybe their lives. "Preventing injuries is not just about life and death; it's about quality of life."

ACCIDENTS AREN'T JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS (*Concise*)

ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. a

2. c

3. b

4. d

5. a

6. b

ACCIDENTS AREN'T JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS (Concise)
REVIEW QUIZ

The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.

Name _____ Date _____

1. The injuries that we call "accidents" can usually be prevented.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. The first incident that Martin recounts involves Michael, who was using a ladder to clean out his gutters. What led to Michael's accident?
 - a. He used the wrong ladder for the job
 - b. He didn't inspect his ladder
 - c. He leaned too far while atop the ladder

3. When you commit an unsafe act, the consequences affect you and no one else.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. What is the best safety tool?
 - a. PPE
 - b. Machine guards
 - c. Seatbelts
 - d. Your brain

5. Personal protective equipment only works if you wear it.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. Which of the following does it take to prevent injuries?
 - a. A high IQ
 - b. Take time to slow down and think before you act