



Training Solutions, Delivered!

THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR UNSAFE ACTS

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

Item Number: 3881

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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.

3881 THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR UNSAFE ACTS FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 8 MINUTES

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

Unsafe acts always have the potential to cause injury or death no matter the excuse or justification used to commit them. That's the theme of this fast-paced program that stresses to viewers that they must put safety first in every job they perform by wearing proper protective equipment, following safe work practices, using the correct tool for the job and asking for assistance when unsure how to proceed safely. The video also underscores the point that injuries that result from making excuses to commit unsafe acts aren't accidents; they are the consequences of our purposely placing ourselves in harm's way.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

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

- How excuses made by adults about safety aren't any different from the excuses our children make when we insist they be protected from injury;
- Why the consequences of putting ourselves in harm's way aren't really accidents;
- Why we must not fall victim to repeating the same unsafe acts just because we've been successful from being injured;
- Why we must put safety first in every job we perform.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:

UNSAFE INCIDENTS

- A maintenance worker decides not to fully verify a lockout/tagout procedure and is seriously burned when a valve opens unexpectedly.
- A pipefitter chooses to connect his fall protection to a piece of conduit rather than a proper anchor point and falls to his death.
- A construction worker opts to enter an unsloped and unprotected trench in order to inspect a pipe and is buried alive.
- Each of these incidents shares a common thread. In each case, a worker chose to commit an unsafe action which resulted in serious injury or death.
- Each worker no doubt had some type of excuse for his behavior, but the result of his decision makes it clear that there is no excuse for unsafe acts.

EXCUSES MADE BY ADULTS ARE NO MORE JUSTIFIED THAN THOSE CHILDREN MAKE

- A boy climbs high in a tree and his mom is very concerned. Should she be relieved when he assures her that he won't fall? After all, he "does this all the time."
- No, she isn't relieved because she knows that his excuse does nothing to change the fact that he may fall at any time. When adults use similar excuses to justify unsafe actions, are they any different than the boy in the tree? No.
- When adults commit unsafe actions such as failing to wear protective equipment or ignoring safe work procedures, they do so under the same false belief as the boy in the tree.
- Their excuses, however, can no more stop a machine or a falling object than the boy's excuse can turn off gravity.
- Unsafe acts always have the potential to cause injury or death no matter the excuse or justification used to commit them.
- Seatbelts, protective helmets and fall protection are all examples of necessary safety equipment frequently ignored by workers and justified by some type of excuse: "I don't need fall protection. I do this all the time; I'm not going to fall" or "I don't need a seatbelt; I've never had an accident."

THE CONSEQUENCES OF PUTTING OURSELVES IN HARM'S WAY ARE NOT ACCIDENTS

- Remember, excuses cannot make an unsafe action any safer. Using excuses to justify unsafe actions is simply a mental mechanism used to escape the reality that we are purposely placing ourselves in harm's way.

- Some may protest the assertion that an action resulting in injury was committed on purpose, choosing instead to call it an “accident.”
- There are few true accidents; most injuries result when a choice is made to commit an unsafe act.
- For example, a person chooses to play Russian roulette by placing a bullet into a gun, spinning the cylinder, placing the gun to his head and pulling the trigger. If the gun fired and the person was killed, would that be called an accident? Of course not.
- So when a worker chooses to wear loose clothing near moving equipment, decides to operate a forklift in an unsafe manner or performs electrical work without wearing the proper flame-resistant clothing, is it an accident if they are injured or killed? No, not really.

JUSTIFYING UNSAFE ACTS WHEN WE SUCCESSFULLY AVOID INJURY DEFIES ALL LOGIC

- Why do people place themselves in danger? Perhaps it’s due to human nature; as humans, we are easily swayed by simple reinforcement and success even it goes against all logic.
- In the example of Russian roulette, logic tells us that surviving the first pull of the trigger does not improve our chances of surviving a second attempt; yet, when we get away with an unsafe action at work, our action is reinforced by our supposed success.
- Even though logic tells us that repeating the unsafe act is just as likely to cause injury, all too often that is exactly what we do.

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST IN EVERY JOB WE PERFORM

- How do we avoid committing unsafe acts? We start by putting safety first in every act we perform.
- We must adjust our attitude to recognize that finishing a job as fast as possible or as easily as possible is not our goal; our goal must be to finish a job while staying as safe as possible.
- To achieve this, we must think before we start any task, taking into account any safety issues. We must fully understand what we are doing and how we intend to stay safe while doing it.
- This means wearing proper safety equipment, following safe work practices, using the correct tools for the job and asking for assistance when unsure how to proceed safely.
- We also need help—co-workers and supervisors must be willing to consistently speak out against unsafe acts while also providing positive feedback to those choosing to follow safe work practices.
- We must be willing to recognize and reject the excuses used to justify unsafe actions, using them as an internal trigger to reevaluate the safety of what we are doing or as an opportunity to prevent a co-worker from making a similar mistake.

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ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. a

2. b

3. d

4. g

5. a

6. b

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REVIEW QUIZ

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

Name _____ Date _____

1. Injuries that result from making excuses to commit unsafe acts aren't accidents; they are the consequences of purposely placing ourselves in harm's way.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. A good excuses minimizes the chance of an accident occurring.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. Which of the following is an example of a type of safety equipment that is frequently ignored and justified by some type of excuse?
 - a. Seatbelts
 - b. Protective helmets
 - c. Fall protection
 - d. All of the above

4. How do we avoid committing unsafe acts?.
 - a. Put safety first in every act we perform
 - b. Adjust our attitude and make our goal to finish a job whilst staying as safe as possible
 - c. Think before we start any task
 - d. Wear proper PPE
 - e. Follow safe work practices
 - f. Use the correct tools for the job
 - g. All of the above

5. When it comes to injuries, there are few true accidents.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. To stay safe, we don't need the help of co-workers and supervisors who are willing to speak out against unsafe acts.
 - a. True
 - b. False