



Training Solutions, Delivered!

THE BERNIE INMAN STORY *(Concise)*

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

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.

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FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 10 MINUTES

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

Bernie and Sheila Inman's world was turned upside down when Bernie suffered horrific injuries at work, leaving him in a coma with a grim prognosis: no chance of meaningful recovery. If he were to survive, the doctors predicted he would be blind, brain damaged and completely paralyzed. In this program, Bernie and Sheila candidly discuss the events leading to Bernie's injuries, and in the process deliver a powerful message on the importance of safety awareness, safe work practices and the far-reaching effects of a workplace injury. After listening to Bernie and Sheila's message, viewers of this unique presentation will understand the importance of seemingly simple safety choices and decisions. Bernie does not know or understand why he survived his ordeal, but he insists on turning his tragedy into a positive by sharing his story with others.

Topics include the dangers of complacency and shortcuts, how your choices affect others, wearing appropriate PPE in all required situations, ripple effects of an injury, why workplace communication is critical and reasons to work safely.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

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

- How complacency played a role in Bernie's injuries;
- Why PPE should be worn in all required situations;
- Why it is important to maintain communication with others when working alone;
- How serious workplace injuries can affect a person's family and loved ones.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:

BERNIE REPORTS TO WORK AS USUAL

- One cold morning on January 24, Bernie walked out the door and went to work, just as he had done for 10 years. Little did he know that it would be the last chance he had to walk anywhere again.
- Bernie was employed as a gas plant operator by a major North American oil and gas producer. He was good at his job and very confident in his skills.
- He never dreamed he'd be injured performing the duties of his job.
- When you learn to do what you do, you get comfortable with your surroundings; you may lose a little bit of respect with regards to the equipment or the job that you're doing.
- Bernie is the first to admit that complacency played a significant role in the incident that occurred later that day.
- He arrived at the plant at 7 a.m. to find the operation running in a smooth and steady fashion.

EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE INCIDENT

- As a plant operator, Bernie frequently entered and exited many areas of the plant, often alone, in order to check and adjust various processes and equipment.
- Bernie enjoyed the solitude of his job and seldom told others where he was going or when he planned to return.
- On this particular day, Bernie was anxious to get home because he didn't want his wife Sheila, who was six months pregnant, to come home to a cold, dark house.
- His plan was to make an adjustment at a remote well location before heading home; unfortunately, he never made it.

THE INCIDENT

- Bernie has no memory of what happened in that building, but the incident investigation provided some important clues.
- The investigation indicated that he was wearing a ball cap and reading glasses instead of a hardhat and safety glasses. This was a glowing example of complacency "rearing its ugly head" as well as a blatant disregard for company policy.
- Because there was a significant wound on his forehead and a flow meter was broken directly in front of the entrance door, Bernie believes that at some point he lost his footing and struck his forehead.

- Something as simple as rushing into a familiar building or being distracted by thoughts of going home could have caused him to miss a step or to trip.
- The strike to the forehead caused Bernie to become disoriented. During this time, he moved about the building that measured eight by 12 feet and was equipped with two 36-inch doors.
- Not being able to get outside of the building, Bernie eventually came into contact with a bleed valve found on the methanol injection pump.
- Methanol is a toxic chemical commonly used in freeze protection. It is damaging to the skin, nerves and organs; the amount of damage depends on the length of exposure.
- Dazed from a blow to his head, Bernie collapsed into a pool of the toxic chemical.

THE SEARCH FOR BERNIE

- When Sheila got home that night, the house was dark and Bernie wasn't home. She assumed he had stopped off at a friend's house to visit.
- After waiting for an hour, she began to worry. She started phoning around to his friends, none of whom had heard from or seen Bernie.
- She finally called one friend, Al Tucker, and asked him to go look for Bernie. Al began retracing Bernie's path shortly before midnight.
- Al searched for hours, finally finding Bernie's truck around 3 a.m. Bernie had been saturated in methanol for 11 hours.

BERNIE'S INJURIES & PROGNOSIS

- During the three and a half-week time period Bernie was unconscious, his loved ones and those closest to him suffered through "absolute hell." It was something they did not deserve to suffer through, based on his decision that day.
- If he did survive, the prognosis was that he would be brain damaged, institutionalized and blind. Also, he would have a different personality and have the shakes.
- The doctors couldn't answer any of their questions. They didn't know for sure what methanol could do to him.
- Bernie's prolonged exposure resulted in second and third degree burns over 70 percent of his body. In addition, the chemical was affecting his organs, causing them to shut down.
- His kidneys and liver failed and his lungs were burned so severely internally that he was no longer able to breathe on his own.

HOW THE INJURIES AFFECT BERNIE'S FAMILY & LOVED ONES

- The magnitude of his injuries brought Bernie's family members to the hospital on a number of occasions because he "wasn't supposed to be there come morning."
- Bernie says he feels "extremely poorly" that his loved ones had to suffer through that for such an extended period of time.
- Bernie has survived his ordeal, although permanent nerve damage has left him unable to walk. The unfortunate combination of complacency, being in a hurry and not wearing his hardhat has changed his family's lives forever.
- "It's easy to sit back and say 'you know if I had another chance, I'd put the rest of my PPE on.' There is no second chance," says Bernie.
- Workers have to appreciate how their decisions can affect the family at home, according to Sheila. "Bernie's decision that day not to wear his PPE affected us, and it will continue to affect us for the rest of our days," she says.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM BERNIE'S STORY

- How effective this is for all of you is entirely up to you. The onus is upon us as individuals to function with safety in mind at all times.
- Understand the policies and procedures.
- Make sure the appropriate personal protective equipment is being utilized.
- Educate yourselves on the dangers of any chemicals to which you may be exposed.
- Remember, safety starts with awareness, awareness starts with you.

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ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. a

2. b

3. b

4. a

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. Bernie was good at his job and very confident in his skills.

1. True
2. False

2. Bernie is the first to admit that _____ played a significant role in his incident.

1. Inexperience
2. Complacency
3. Lack of training

3. Bernie always made an effort to let his superiors know where he was going, what he was doing and when he was going to be clear.

1. True
2. False

4. Something as simple as rushing into a familiar building or being distracted by thoughts of going home could have caused Bernie to miss a step or to trip.

a. True

b. False

5. Bernie says the "absolute hell" his family suffered through while he was unconscious was something they did not deserve.

a. True

b. False

6. Workers don't need to worry about how their decisions affect their families at home, according to Sheila Inman.

a. True

b. False