



Training Solutions, Delivered!

WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

Non-Graphic (Concise)

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

Item Number: 4652

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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.

4652 WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE? *Non-Graphic (Concise)*
FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 9 MINUTES

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

Excuses, excuses—we all have given and heard our share of excuses. This program features many common workplace examples of people using excuses to justify unsafe acts. Our goal is to help viewers recognize risky excuses so they can stop, think and make a better choice.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

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

- Why excuses don't change the reality of our situation;
- How the results of making excuses affect ourselves and our loved ones;
- What our excuses really say to our loved ones.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:

EXCUSES DON'T CHANGE THE REALITY OF OUR SITUATION

- A man using a chainsaw says, "Look, I know what I'm doing. I've been using a chainsaw since I was 10 years old. I've never had a scratch."
- A maintenance technician opening an electrical cabinet says, "No, I didn't personally do the lockout and verify zero energy, but this equipment is scheduled to be out of service for two more days. So, I'm sure it's okay."
- A housewife standing on box in a chair to reach a cabinet says, "But I don't have a ladder; how else could I reach up there?"
- While these three examples may seem ridiculous, each one represents a common type of excuse and you may be more familiar with them than you realize.

SAFETY EXCUSE #1:

Prior Experience & Success Will Guarantee Your Safety

- A construction worker who's driving a nail without eye protection says, "I haven't been hit by a nail yet. Besides, I don't miss—much."
- Another worker without a hardhat in a construction area says, "I've been working here 20 years and I've never been hit in the head by anything. Besides, I'll just be here a few minutes."
- A third worker climbing on a raised platform without fall protection says, "Look, I've got real good balance, better than most. Besides, I can move around better without it."
- These are all variations of the same flawed excuse; "I've had success in the past; therefore, I am safe today." Don't fall victim to this common excuse; your safety today depends solely on what you have done to stay safe today.

SAFETY EXCUSE #2:

Assuming It's Safe Makes It Safe

- An equipment operator who fails to inspect her forklift before operating it says, "It worked fine yesterday and the day before. I'm sure it's fine."
- A maintenance worker who neglects to read a chemical container's warning label says, "If this chemical were really dangerous, they wouldn't even let me use it. So it must be safe."
- A swimmer who prepares to dive into a pool without verifying the depth of the water below says, "The water looks great. I'm diving in."
- These excuses are all examples of assuming the safety of the situation rather than confirming the safety of a situation. Making assumptions about safety can quickly turn tragic.

SAFETY EXCUSE #3:

My Safety Is Directly Related To My Convenience

- A machine operator who holds his work material close to the cutting action of his machine says, "People keep walking

off with my push bar. That thing is never around when I need it.”

- A worker tightening a bolt with a wrench of the wrong size says, “I didn’t have the right size wrench with me, but I did have a big pipe wrench. So I figured I’d just use that.”
- An obviously impaired person who hasn’t made plans for a designated driver asks, “Well, how am I supposed to get home?”
- These are all excuses based on the flawed logic that safety is somehow related to convenience. Safety is not always convenient; it does take extra effort.
- It takes effort to make sure you have the assist device when you need it; it takes planning to bring the correct tools to the job; and, it takes responsibility to have a designated driver or call for a cab when you’ve been drinking.
- Using these types of excuses to justify unsafe behavior is certainly an example of shortsightedness and poor decision-making.

HOW THE RESULTS OF MAKING EXCUSES AFFECT US & OUR LOVED ONES

- A worker in an asbestos abatement area who neglects to wear a respirator says, “I don’t see how this stuff can be that dangerous; I’m not wearing this thing.”
- A worker in a loud machine shop who refuses to wear hearing protection says, “I’m not wearing these ear plugs; it’s not that loud in here anyway.”
- An electrical worker who rejects his arc flash protection says, “I can’t believe they expect us to wear this suit. I’ve done this job 1,000 times without an arc flash and I’m sure this time will be no different. Let’s just get it done.”
- Excuses like these not only place us at risk, they clearly show our ability to set aside reason and logic.
- At the funeral of the electrical worker, his widow says, “I just don’t understand how this could happen; he had worked there so long. I mean he knew what he was doing.”
- A visitor at the electrical worker’s funeral tells his grieving widow, “At least you can take comfort knowing he got away with it the first 1,000 times.”
- After such an incident, our loved ones wouldn’t think much of our excuses.

WHAT OUR EXCUSES REALLY SAY TO OUR LOVED ONES

- We would probably be far less likely to take risky chances if had to attempt to explain them to our loved ones first.
- One worker explains to his wife, “Look honey, I know they spend time and money to train us in safety and procedures, but they don’t really want us to actually do all that stuff. So I don’t.”
- While most of us wouldn’t choose to say those things to our loved ones, that is exactly what we are saying when we use excuses and commit unsafe acts.
- We all know actions speak louder than words. This is why we need to take action to ensure our safety.

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ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. a

2. d

3. b

4. a

5. c

6. c

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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. The excuses we use when we place ourselves in danger won't protect us from the reality of the situation.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. Which of the following is an acceptable excuse for risky driving behaviors?
 - a. I can speed now because everyone around me is speeding
 - b. I don't have to slow down at this intersection because the light is still yellow
 - c. I know what I'm doing – I've never even had a ticket
 - d. None of the above

3. Prior experience and success will guarantee your safety.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. You should never make assumptions without confirming the safety of a situation. For example, don't skip your pre-operational inspection just because the forklift worked fine yesterday.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. Using the wrong tool for the job because the correct tool is too far away is an example of which type of excuse?
 - a. Prior experience will guarantee your safety
 - b. Assuming it's safe makes it safe
 - c. My safety is directly related to my convenience

6. What should you do if you have a concern about a procedure, a supervisor, a co-workers, or anything else related to your safety?
 - a. Use the issue as an excuse to commit an unsafe act
 - b. Wait until it's convenient to do anything about it
 - c. Follow your company's process for addressing it and getting it resolved ASAP