

## Safety, It's Your Choice

### Introduction:

Safety is defined as “a state of being protected from potential harm or something that has been designed to protect and prevent harm.” It’s the company’s responsibility to provide a safe working environment for its employees. Ensuring safety begins with establishing and implementing a company safety policy and training all employees on safety procedures. It’s the employee’s responsibility to apply what they have learned about the safety procedures while performing their job tasks.

### Discussion Points:

- What is “Safety” and why is it important?
- What is the responsibility of the employee?
- What is “Safety Compliance”?
- Safety Management Systems and safety training
- The choices workers make and the consequences

### Discussion:

Every day people go to work, perform job tasks to the best of their ability, and expect to return home safely. However, some workers make poor decisions resulting in injury or death. Studies show that over 50% of all workplace incidents occur because workers make bad decisions; they choose not to comply with safety rules or follow procedures. Many companies implement safety management systems with extensive safety training and set safety expectations designed to keep workers safe from injury or death.

Employees should comply with safety regulations that are relevant to their industry. Safety compliance refers to “the state of being in accordance with established safety standards and regulations.” The employees should follow procedures, use the right tools for the job, wear the required personal protective equipment, execute the task to the best of their ability, and not take shortcuts.

When performing a job task, workers should ask themselves, “What are you doing? Are you following company procedures?” It’s the workers’ responsibility to perform the job using correct safety measures. It’s their choice whether they follow safety rules or not and if they choose to use shortcuts. Making unsafe choices leads to unsafe acts that can lead to near-miss incidents, injuries, or death. Workers who choose to comply with company safety policies care about their own safety and that of their co-workers, and they plan to go home safely at the end of each day.

“Great safety is more than just words on paper. It is a reflection of the choices we make, day in, day out, on our job sites, and in our personal lives.” – Willbros (<https://youtu.be/RGEZJ-jBhmI>)

As always, stay safe out there!



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