



## AVOID UNSAFE ACTS

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An accident is an unplanned event caused by either an unsafe act, an unsafe condition, or both. Injuries and accidents trace back to unsafe acts or conditions.

Injuries on the job don't just happen - they are caused! An injury is the final link in a chain of events or circumstances. We are fortunate indeed to be able to say that most unsafe acts or conditions do not complete the chain of events that leads to an injury-producing accident.

Let me compare unsafe acts or conditions to something that has probably thrilled most of us ever since we were kids. I'm thinking of several acts in the circus that always thrill the crowds that attend. One act that would certainly be classed as an unsafe act would be the one done by the trapeze performers. Another would be the one put on by the trampoline stars.

I am always fearful that the man swinging through the air will just miss his fellow performer and drop to the hard floor below.

When I see a performer on a trampoline, I wonder if the fellow will misjudge his descent and come down in such a way that he straddles the framework which holds up the stretched fabric. What a surprised guy he would be!

In fact, I also wouldn't engage in some of the unsafe acts that I've seen workers commit. Again, I wouldn't want to run the risk of getting hurt.

Some figures have been rather widely used to show that only 30 out of 330 accidents result in injuries. These figures also show that out of the 30 injury-producing accidents, 29 require first aid and only one is serious enough to disable the worker or to cause loss of time from the job.

What does this mean to you? It means that you can't afford to take a chance on an unsafe act or an unsafe condition. The odds are that if you continue to take chances you will be involved in an injury-producing accident. Your injury could very well be so serious that it would cause you to lose time from work or be laid up in the hospital.

I suppose that each of you realizes that both unsafe acts and unsafe conditions cause almost every kind of work accident that can happen or has happened. Let's talk a little about the four most common sources of injury-producing accidents in the order of their frequency:

1. Manual handling of materials is the source of about one-fourth of all compensable work injuries. Injuries due to improper lifting occur quite often. There are also many cases involving bruised and smashed fingers and toes.
2. There are many types of falls; falls on slippery floors and tripping over objects left on floors, falls on stairs, falls from slight elevations, and falls from heights.
3. Next are the injuries caused by falling or moving objects. You can get hit with anything from a falling tool to a load swung by a crane.

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4. Machinery is safe if you know how to handle it and if you utilize the safety devices. Machinery is dangerous for the inexperienced worker to operate, or for the one who takes chances.

Unsafe conditions on the job:

1. Operating machines or equipment without authority, failure to secure it or warn others.
2. Operating equipment at an unsafe speed.
3. Bypassing safety devices.
4. Using unsafe equipment or using equipment unsafely.
5. Handling of material in an unsafe manner.
6. Taking an unsafe position or posture.
7. Indulging in horseplay or inattention.
8. Failing to use protective equipment.

You, too, can help in our safety program if you'll agree to practice safety and to warn others when you see them endangering themselves. Always wear your protective clothing where your work demands it.

*Let's leave the unsafe acts for the circus performer!*

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NOVEMBER - WEEK 2

This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: ELECTRICAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Class Participants:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_