



Admitting Mistakes Safety Message

We all make mistakes. It is a natural human thing to do. When dealing with mistakes in the workplace, they can have serious negative consequences for production as well as safety. While making mistakes is not a good thing, the lessons that can be learned from them is one positive outcome. Reporting mistakes is critical to allow others to learn from them to prevent similar negative incidents from occurring in the future.

Reporting Mistakes When They Occur

Most companies have some type of reporting system so that mistakes and events that result in near misses or losses can be learned from. If your company has a program in place, follow the process to ensure the right people get notified of what occurred.

If your company does not have a structured reporting system, there are other actions you can take to ensure lessons are passed on from the mistake. Some examples include:

- Report the mistake to a supervisor. Your supervisor can take the necessary steps to inform anyone that needs to be involved and can help to ensure your coworkers do not make a similar mistake.
- Share what occurred with a safety representative if the mistake impacts safety, even if the incident was just a near miss. The information collected can be used to improve the safeguards for the work task which in turn can save a life.
- Share lessons learned with coworkers, especially coworkers new to a work task so that they can learn from mistakes or mishaps you have experienced.
- Speak up in safety meetings or job planning meetings to share lessons learned.

Summary

Mistakes are made every single day. Many times, no bad outcome occurs. Sometimes, very serious consequences can result. No matter if the consequences of a mistake were small or large, employees should admit to them so lessons can be learned.

Discussion points:

1. **What is an example of how admitting to a mistake can lead to preventing an injury?**
2. **What is an example of a lesson you have learned through a mistake that occurred on the job?**

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