

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic C125: We Know Better

**Introduction:** Most of us have the necessary knowledge, training, and experience to do our jobs safely and correctly. Furthermore, no one wants to be injured or to injure others while on the job; yet we continually ignore common sense and take short cuts which may result in an injury. The U.S. Dept. of Labor Statistics reports that 90% of work related injuries are preventable.

**We know better, but:**

- We know that a bump on the head hurts, yet we carry loads over our head.
- We know that our hardhats are required on the job, but we don't wear them because they are uncomfortable.
- We know that there is a safe way to climb up and down a ladder, yet we take short cuts and risk falling from dangerous heights.
- We know better than to try and hand carry a load up a ladder.
- We know a saw can amputate a finger or worse, but removing or "pinning-back" the guard saves time and trouble.
- We know that excessive speed can cause accidents, yet we take chances on the road daily. We know how deadly an automobile can be, yet we allow our mind to wander, and ourselves to become distracted.
- We know that bad housekeeping can cause a trip and fall accident, yet we leave aisles obstructed and blocked with tools and equipment.
- We know that in an emergency, exits are essential for everyone's safety, but we do not take the time to clear the exits, aisles, and doors.
- We know that servicing or maintaining equipment can cause electrocution, crushing accidents, or amputations, yet we do not ensure that the power is turned off and locked-out prior to performing repair work. We neglect to properly block-out equipment which can crush and kill, and we do not properly tag-out power sources to ensure the equipment is not started inadvertently while we are still working.
- We know that flying objects can cause permanent eye damage, yet we do not always wear safety glasses while operating machinery. We knew of the hazard, but reasoned, "it can't happen to me".
- We know that carbon monoxide can cause brain damage and kill, yet we work in an enclosed area with the engine running.
- We know that a fall from heights can kill, yet we remove fall protection barriers and equipment to work faster.
- We know that excavations can easily cave-in, yet we do not take proper care to ensure our safety while working in the excavation. We know the requirements are established for our safety but think, "just this one time".
- We know that chemicals are flammable and explosive, yet we store them haphazardly and handle them carelessly.
- We know that lifting heavy objects can strain our back, yet we still try and lift objects by ourselves. We know it is heavy, but it takes too long to get the dolly.
- We know that stretching prior to work will reduce workplace injuries, yet we work immediately.
- We know that wearing loose fitting clothes and jewelry can get caught in equipment, yet we wear it anyway.
- We knew it was a hazard, but we wanted to look good on the job.

We know that a fall from heights can kill, yet we remove fall protection barriers and equipment in order to work faster.

**Conclusion:** We as professionals know better, and yet we still cut corners exposing ourselves to unsafe conditions. There are as many short cuts and excuses (none of them worth an injury or death) as there are rules and regulations against them. Take the time to think, and if you "know better", don't do it!

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*