



# WEEKLY SAFETY HUDDLE

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## Overview

Woo Hoo! Our first of many safety huddles! Let's prepare to make this one a good one. Our goal is to start to build a safety culture of Team Member participation in safety processes and procedures. Use this as the beginning of a discussion of the idea that safety applies to everyone. This huddle speaks to our need to take personal responsibility for our own safety.

### Sample questions:

Why do you think that people do not wear their seatbelts?

What are the benefits of wearing a seat belt?

How does wearing seat belts apply to a personal strategy of Safety?



## A PERSONAL STRATEGY OF SAFETY

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Have you noticed that some workers often ignore even the most basic, yet life-saving safety procedures – speeding down the road, texting while driving and lifting without keeping their back straight? I often find that these workers just simply don't believe that the safety procedures apply to them. They consider safety something that someone is "doing to them" rather than a way to protect themselves, their co-workers, and their families. They don't take safety personally.

After nearly 15 years in the business of safety, I identified the biggest obstacle to a goal of zero injuries. Not long ago, I heard someone say something that really got my attention:

The gap between knowing and doing is much bigger than the gap between knowing and not knowing.

I know you probably must think about this for a minute. I did. It boils down to something quite basic. The gap between knowing and not knowing is easily overcome through education and training. The tough gap to overcome is when people know something yet don't do it or apply it. I find that this gap is rooted in our attitudes about safety.

I encourage you to look in the mirror at your attitude toward safety, then develop your personal strategy for working safe. Our behaviors demonstrate our attitudes. For instance, if you make the claim "I am Safe" yet broke the speed limit as you drove to work this morning, you're not demonstrating a commitment to safety. Without this commitment you create barriers to the proper application of safety practices and procedures that are made to protect you. In contrast, others do demonstrate their commitment every day.

The gap between knowing and doing is very real.

- I know managers that came up through the ranks and now supervised the people they worked alongside – the ones who know the manager's safety shortcomings.
- I saw it when I was called to investigate a serious injury that occurred, when the equipment to prevent it was not in use and located in their truck.
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It's all about application. It's just that simple. The goal of our safety program is to help all team members understand and close the gap between saying, "I am safe," and actually behaving safely. Several years ago, a friend said, "We don't work in a dangerous environment, we work in a hazardous environment that we make dangerous when we don't follow safety practices or procedures.

When someone is injured in a wreck, while working, or at home, 90% of the time the injured person can tell you what he or she could have done to prevent the injury. There's that gap again!

Thank you for taking the time to consider this information. My hope is that, in the end, you will have developed your personal safety strategy to close your own gap between knowing and doing.

Chris Reynolds

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