

“Get Back to Basics with Safety”

Why It Matters:

- ☞ There are more than 100,000 accidental deaths per year in the United States, including close to 5,000 in the workplace.
- ☞ More than 3 million Americans suffer disabling injuries on the job each year.
- ☞ Work injuries cost Americans more than \$150 billion per year, or more than \$1,000 per worker.

According to the National Safety Council, June is National Safety Month - time to spotlight its annual theme of “Safety: Where We Live, Work, and Play.”

Take time to remind basics. If most of your safety details of specific hazards and forget to step back and remind picture.” Fundamentally, that around “safety attitude” - times and in all situations - not and on vacation. In fact, only part of the picture: Nearly two-thirds of nonfatal but workers occur away from the



Be alert to the most safety basics is knowing the and serious injury so that you these possible hazards. As a training exercise, ask your employees to name what they think are the five leading causes of accidental death, and then compare their list to the most recent available statistics for 2003:

employees about safety training sessions focus on the work practices, you can easily employees about the “big means developing an all-keeping safety in mind at all just at work, but also at home practicing safety at work is 90 percent of fatal injuries and disabling injuries to American job.

hazardous situations. Part of most common causes of death can stay particularly alert to

- ✓ Motor vehicles accounted for more than 40 percent of fatal accidents both overall and in the workplace
- ✓ Falls (16 percent) were also the leading cause of serious nonfatal injuries
- ✓ Poisoning (13 percent)
- ✓ Choking (4 percent)
- ✓ Drowning and fires (tied at about 3 percent each)

Emphasize the “secret weapon” against accidents. Actually, the secret weapon isn’t really all that secret...it’s common sense! Remind employees that most accidents can be prevented simply by paying attention to hazards and engaging their brains before they act in a potentially unsafe manner. Ask your groups to name examples of using common sense to enhance safety; these might include:

- Reading the label on a chemical container before using it
- Wearing all required PPE whenever known hazards are present
- Removing or avoiding any possible slipping, tripping, and falling hazards
- Making sure flammable and combustible materials are kept away from sources of ignition
- Never disabling or circumventing safety devices, such as machine guards
- Staying away from power lines or any type of energized electrical equipment
- Asking a supervisor for help and guidance if they are not sure how to do a job safely