AVOID SHORTCUTS

It can often be tempting to look for shortcuts throughout the workday, especially when production deadlines are looming, management is demanding, or events out of your control have slowed work down and you feel like you need to make up for lost time.

★ When the need to work fast is more important than safety, accidents happen.

★ Safety is everyone's responsibility.

★ There is too much at stake to take shortcuts.

When you take shortcuts, your actions have the potential to result in dangerous outcomes that definitely aren't worth saving a few extra seconds or minutes.

<u>There are several ways to avoid feeling the urge to take shortcuts.</u>

➤ Preplan your work tasks to ensure that everything you need is available including tools, training, personnel, paperwork, and safety equipment.

➤ Take hazards seriously. Understand the risks associated with your work activities know the consequences of unsafe behavior.

➤ If a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or other pre-work hazard assessment is required, do not skip this step! Every project may have unique risks and it's important to identify all the hazards before work begins.

➤ Recognize when you may be rationalizing that it's okay for you to cut corners and fight the urge to take the easy way out. Hold yourself accountable to following the safer process.

➤ Make safety a habit and be a good example for your co-workers. If someone on the team is not following through on the safety aspects, then others assume it's fine for them to skip those steps too.

➤ If you notice newer employees starting to take shortcuts, remind them not to skip the important safety steps in the process. Be firm, positive, and encouraging.

➤ If you are unsure of the safe way to complete any task, speak up, and ask!

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Discussion

What are some common reasons that workers may take shortcuts?

What is an example of a shortcut that seems harmless but could be risky?

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