COMPANY SAFETY MEETING EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

When it comes to creating a strong and effective safety culture, few things are more important than employee engagement. A safety program doesn't reach its full potential when it's only enforced from the top down. It thrives when every employee is actively involved in maintaining and improving safety on the job.

Employee engagement means more than just following rules. It means understanding the "why" behind those rules and caring about the outcomes. Engaged workers don't just comply with safety procedures, they participate in creating and improving them. They speak up when they see a hazard. They report near misses. They help new team members learn how to do things the right way. And most importantly, they look out for one another.

Engagement starts with trust. When employees feel their input is heard and valued, they're more likely to contribute. That could mean participating in a safety meeting, suggesting improvements to a task, or volunteering for additional safety training. This doesn't just mean their input should be valued and heard by management or their superiors, but by their coworkers as well. Being able to have open discussions and give/take ideas and even criticism to one another, allows for a more trusting and solidified team environment. Encouraging and recognizing these behaviors goes a long way in building a team where everyone feels responsible for keeping the workplace, and each other, safe.

It's also important to remember that engagement isn't one-size-fits-all. Some workers may feel more comfortable speaking up in private rather than in front of a group. Others may prefer hands-on demonstrations rather than reading a policy or going through a PowerPoint Presentation. As leaders and coworkers, we should make room for different forms of communication and find ways to bring everyone into the conversation. Everyone works, learns and communicates differently, and that needs to be considered.

Engaged employees are also more likely to take personal ownership of their actions. That means wearing PPE without being reminded, doublechecking equipment before use, and staying alert even during repetitive tasks. These behaviors are the foundation of a safety-first culture. One that protects lives and strengthens operations both in a safety standpoint, as well as a production standpoint.

How to Encourage Engagement on the Job:

- Ask for employee input during safety meetings or audits. Furthermore, encourage it.
- Recognize and reward safe behaviors. Not just results, but the process itself.
- Provide multiple ways for workers to report concerns or make suggestions. Make it easy for everyone!
- Make safety everyone's responsibility, not just management's.
- Follow through when an issue is raised. Action builds trust!

Employee engagement isn't just about morale, it directly impacts safety performance. When everyone is involved, aware, and empowered, hazards are caught earlier, risks are managed better, and injuries are significantly reduced. Whether you're in the field or on the floor, remember: engaged and cohesive teams are safer teams.

Let's continue building a workplace where every voice matters, every suggestion counts, and safety is something we all own, together.



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JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA)

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