

TST #153-A

## Look Out for the New Worker

We all have a responsibility toward the new worker. It is reported that new employees are more than twice as likely to have an accident as experienced workers. He or she looks to the more experienced worker for guidance and examples. It is important for all of us to be available to answer questions and offer advice. It is equally important to set a good example. If employees don't wear safety glasses, maybe the new person will get the idea that it is not necessary. If employees resist using machine guards or take shortcuts in safety—the new worker will likely imitate others.

New workers aren't just the first-timers on the job, but anyone in an unfamiliar situation. This might include someone transferred in from another geographic area or someone promoted to a new position. Whenever operators are presented with new equipment, processes or procedures, it is time to review all of the safety aspect of the job—just like a new employee.

Know the safety guidelines.

Starting a new job can be a challenge. Trying to make a good first impression, learning how to work and generally finding the way around a new job, can be difficult. Sometimes the last thing on everyone's mind when starting a new job is safety—but it should be the first.

As work begins, most employers implement a safety orientation program. Be sure to understand and comprehend every detail, otherwise **ask questions**.

**Before** tackling a new job, be sure to get answers to these questions:

- What are the hazards associated with this work? Is there a chance of falls and or back injuries? What about injuries to the head, hands or feet?
- What protections are in place against job hazards? Learn the safe working procedures. Find out what machine guards and barriers are in place to separate you from the hazard.
- Is Personal Protective Equipment needed for protection from hazards? This equipment includes a hard hat, safety glasses, earplugs, safety boots and other forms of protective gear. This equipment is issued – its use is expected.

Get off to a good start by practicing good housekeeping in the work area. Put tools and materials away in the correct places and clean up trash and clutter. Make sure there are no tripping hazards, such as electrical cords, rocks, hoses or tools lying across walk areas. Avoid slipping hazards by cleaning up spills or removing mud and ice promptly.

We all know that poor safety habits can have tragic consequences. Be sure to be a good safety example to the new worker – ***you might save a life***.

# Look Out for the New Worker Quiz

The following statements should be answered with “True” or “False.” Answers below.

1. Safety is sometimes not a person’s main focus when starting a new job.
2. New employees are just as likely to have accidents as experienced workers.
3. Employers are required to conduct a safety orientation for each new employee.
4. Practicing good housekeeping in the work area contributes to safer worksites.
5. The term “new worker” applies not only to first-timers on the job, but anyone in an unfamiliar situation.

**Employee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:**

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True