



# Setting a Good Example

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Did you know we have some real heroes working right here with us? Every day these folks save lives and prevent countless injuries. Some of them are in here with us today; you may even be one. Who are these people? They are the men and women who go to work each day and set a good example for everyone around them by working safely and responsibly.

Setting a good example is not a “put-on.” It is simply working safety into your daily routine at home and on the job. When we all work safely, it means everyone is less likely to get hurt on the job and our futures are more secure.

New employees certainly benefit by seeing operations conducted the safe way. As you all know from experience, people new on the job take a while to adjust and to discover how they fit in the overall set-up of the plant.

New employees who have never held a job before or those who were employed by a firm that had a weak safety program probably will need considerable safety instruction. We try to tell them how to do their job the safe way, but as with everything else, actions speak much louder than words. The actions these new employees will “hear” - and ultimately copy - are yours.

Remember how it was for you the first day on your job. You watched the old hands to see how they did things. You asked them questions, and did what they told you. So I'd like to ask each of you “old hands” to do your new co-workers -- and yourself -- a favor. Teach the new folks the safe way to work by setting a good example and working safely every day. Don't take shortcuts. Don't by-pass guards and safety devices. Be a hero. Do the right thing.

You may think “I don't have anybody new in my area.” And that may be the case. But you never know when someone with less experience will be watching -- and copying -- what you do.

New employees aren't the only ones that need to have a good safety example. Old hands get hurt, too. How many times have you heard these comments:

“Safety equipment is for sissies.”

“I don't have time to do it the safe way.”

Saying these things - and acting this way - not only puts you at risk, but makes it harder for people who do want to work safely to do so. Don't be responsible for someone getting hurt because you talked them out of wearing the proper safety gear or doing a job the safe way.

You also need to remember how your safe or unsafe actions make our plant look to the visitors we have from time to time. Often these visitors are our customers. It makes our plant look sloppy and poorly run if they see our people disregarding safety. You know how hard we try to show our customers that we are a good plant that makes a good product. A poor safety record and poor compliance with safety out on the floor sends the message that we do sloppy work.

I'd like for each of you to be a hero for safety. It's good for business and helps us all keep our jobs. It's good for your co-workers, new and old alike because it sends the message that safety is important and the right thing to do. But most importantly, it's good for you and your family because it will help keep you from getting sick or hurt on the job.