

SAFETY TAILGATE MEETING

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HOUSEKEEPING SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining good housekeeping may seem like a small matter. However, poor housekeeping has led to many injuries and fires.

Case scenario: In February, 2008, there was an explosion at a sugar factory in Savannah, Georgia. 14 people died and 38 were injured. Accumulation of combustible sugar dust throughout the building fueled the explosion.

Case scenario: In 2011, an electrician was walking on scaffolding when he slipped and fell face first onto small pieces of masonry block. He needed reconstructive surgery on his face and recovered many months later.

Group discussion: What can we learn from these two incidents?

In this meeting, we will discuss:

- (1) WHY SOME HAVE POOR HOUSEKEEPING
- (2) PRINCIPLES OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
- (3) BENEFITS OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

WHY SOME HAVE POOR HOUSEKEEPING

Group Discussion: What are some reasons some don't keep good housekeeping?

Have you ever heard these statements?

- "I don't have time. I will do it later."
- "It's no big deal, you should see my house!"
- "It's not mine, it's the other contractor's mess."

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Clean up throughout the day, not just at the end of the day: Consider: When is the greatest hazard to employees? It is <u>while</u> you are working. This is when people slip, trip and fall, and other injuries happen.
- Maintain clear aisle ways: Consider: In the event of an emergency employees must be able to exit safely. There may also be limited visibility, which can make it even more difficult.
- Keep cords and hoses off the floor: When possible, inside buildings, run these overhead and disconnect them when not in use.
- **Keep stairways clear:** No items should ever be stored or run through stairways. These are serious trip hazards.
- Throw trash away as you go: Keep trash cans nearby. Consider: Why throw trash on the floor when you can easily put it in a trash can, which should be nearby.
- Keep combustible dust cleaned up: Consider our first incident we discussed. Saw dust is another combustible dust.
- Keep flammables in approved containers.

What other principles can you think of?

BENEFITS OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Group discussion: What benefits come from maintaining good housekeeping?

- In addition to preventing many potential injuries, we are more productive.
- If there is an emergency it is easier to evacuate.
- It is good for the psyche!

Group discussion: In what ways are we doing well with housekeeping? In what ways can we improve?

GROUP IMAGE



CONDUCTOR SIGNATURE



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