

WE KNOW BETTER

Introduction: Most of us have the necessary knowledge, training and experience to do our jobs safely and correctly. No one wants to be injured or to injure others while on the job; yet we continually ignore common sense and take short cuts which may result in an injury. The U.S. Dept. of Labor reports that 90% of work related injuries were preventable by the person that was injured. The excuses we hear are: **“I knew I shouldn’t, but I thought this one time...”, “I forgot...”, “I just thought it would save time...”**. **We know better but....**

WE ALL KNOW BETTER



BUT.....

- **A BUMP** ~on the head hurts, yet we carry loads over our head. We know that hardhats were required on the job, but they're uncomfortable.
- **THERE** ~is a safe way to climb in and out of your truck, yet we take shortcuts and risk falling and injuring ourselves. We know better than to try and hand carry a load up the ladder – BUT WE DO!
- **EXCESSIVE SPEEDING**~ causes accidents, yet we take chances on the road daily. We allow our attention to wander, or ourselves to be distracted
- **BAD HOUSEKEEPING**~ can cause trip and fall accidents, yet we leave aisles obstructed and blocked with tools and equipment.
- **SERVICING OR MAINTAINING** ~equipment can cause electrocution, crushing accidents or even worse - amputations, yet we do not ensure that the power is turned off and locked-out prior to performing repair work. We neglect to properly tag-out power sources to ensure the equipment is not started inadvertently while we are still working.
- **FLYING OBJECTS** ~ can cause permanent eye damage, yet we do not always wear eye protection while operating power tools or working around environments that could be hazardous to our eyes. We knew the hazard, **but** reasoned **“it can’t happen to me”**.
- **CHEMICALS** ~ are flammable and explosive, yet sometimes we store them haphazardly and at times handle them carelessly.
- **LIFTING HEAVY OBJECTS** ~ can strain our back, yet we still try and lift objects by ourselves. We knew it was heavy but it would take too long to get the dolly or ask someone else to help.
- **STRETCHING PRIOR TO** ~ work will reduce workplace injuries, yet we hop out of the truck and start work immediately.

Conclusion: We all know better, and yet we still cut corners exposing ourselves to unsafe conditions. There are as many short cuts and excuses (none of them worth an injury or death) as there are rules and regulations against them.