

WELCOME

Why Safety is NOT #1

Presented by Safex: Brian Basbagill, CSP

POLL QUESTION #1

Does your company use the motto, or one similar, "Safety is our #1 priority?"

SAFETY IS MY LIFE



After high school, I attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and majored in Safety Sciences.

1992 to 1997 - I learned about safety from books and professors at the best safety program in the country.

1992 to 2005 - The U.S. Army taught me how safety was important to keep troops in the field.

1997-1999 - I worked in the insurance industry as a loss control representative and learned how much a loss event or injury can cost.



MY PROFESSORS

As a college freshman in 1992, my professor made the comment that “Safety is #1...is the worst motto ever!”

As a college sophomore, the angry old professor joked and said, “the only way safety is first is that it’s first to go when money and time is short.”

I never really got it. It seemed like safety should always be the priority. After all it is what we learned.



MY EARLY CAREER

Safety was #1. I got paid to enforce the idea, write the policies and present the policy.

We purchased the posters and banners that said safety is #1.

I heard, I said...safety is so important to us we start every meeting with safety.

We made people turn in a JSA before they started work each week.



WHERE DID IT ALL GO WRONG?

We kicked off the meeting with safety.

The project manager asked each superintendent or foreman if they had any safety issues.

Then they asked the safety guys if we had any notable findings last week.

Then after all the no, no, no, no, no, um I saw somebody not wearing a hard hat and an extension cord was damaged all the safety people left.

Then the real meeting started.

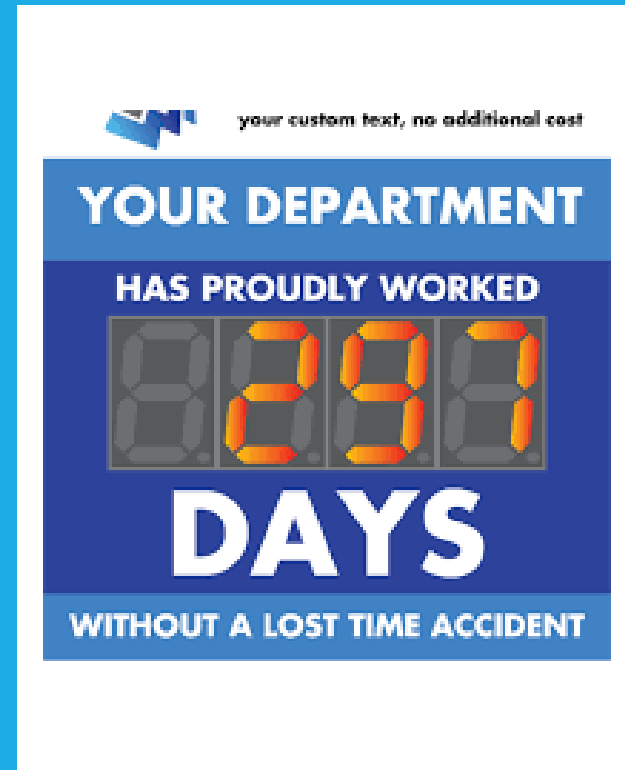


WE KEEP GOING DOWN THAT WRONG ROAD

Weekly toolbox talks that nobody cares about. Scheduled on payday because that's the only way we can get people to show up if they get a paycheck.

Site safety orientations that are merely a checklist that a newbie is on site.

We brag about days without a lost time or OSHA recordable.



“ROLL E’M UP”

Post a lookout or make a code word for the safety guy. Let's do this fast before we get caught.

We are behind schedule, this must get done, you need to leave for a couple hours.

My best employee got caught breaking a critical safety rule and we just can't fire that guy.



POLL QUESTION #2

When the project is on the line, and somebody identifies a safety hazard that will cause you to fail to meet the deadline is your management really willing to stop for safety?

SHOULD SAFETY REALLY BE FIRST?

Absolutely not!

Money comes first! Always has always will

Schedule, materials, coordination is up there
somewhere

Keep the customer happy

VIDEO CLIP

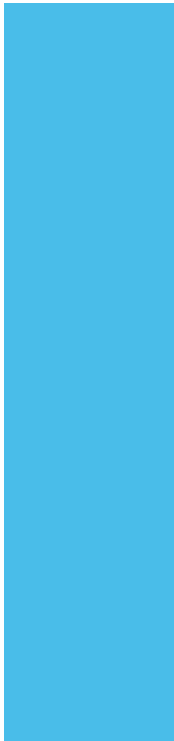
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km8XxRCuCho>



SAFETY CAN'T BE LAST

Too many things can go wrong if we don't plan to be safe

Do you think we can prevent every accident?



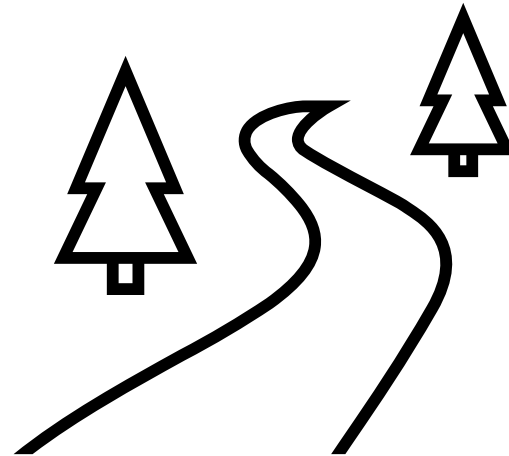
The U.S. Army taught me how to jump out of an airplane.

No matter what you do you will hit the ground.

You may encounter some problems or challenges along the way.

We have a plan, you must execute the plan, we need to work with you to adjust the plan if it isn't working properly.

Remember you have the rest of your life to figure it out.



What do you do if your first OSHA recordable happens on January 3?

What do you do if your first OSHA recordable happens on December 15?

How about we make our goal “Target Zero?”



SETTING GOALS

WHY SAFETY ALWAYS?

1. It does me no good to start strong and finish weak.
2. It's even harder to start off a week and finish strong, you may dig the hole too deep.
3. New technology, new ideas, new experience requires me to continuously adapt our current plan.
4. "Just because you're in compliance doesn't mean you're out of danger," says Mike Rowe.



Questions?

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