



SAFETY FIRST

PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE SAFETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!

Here are descriptions of two recent accidents in our township:

1. An employee escorted students to waiting cars at the curb at the end of school. As many do, she walked backwards to be sure the students were staying in line. She tripped on a defective area of the sidewalk, fell, and fractured her arm. PLEASE be careful when escorting students. If possible, walk sideways while monitoring students giving yourself a better view of what is ahead.
2. An employee decorated a bulletin board while standing on a chair. As she leaned to one side to reach the side of the bulletin board, she fell causing an ankle sprain. PLEASE use appropriate ladders or stepstools to do this type of job. NEVER use a chair or desk.

COMMON SENSE AND PREVENTING WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS

Ever wonder why the Perry employee safety committee reviews accidents of our employees? After all, accidents do happen, right? Well, we believe that is partly true. We also believe most workplace accidents can be avoided resulting in fewer injuries and less hours of work lost. That translates in less money spent on medical claims and more productivity by employees. When we discuss injuries at our monthly meetings, we talk about causes of accidents. These causes are many times a result of not using good old common sense. Here is a list of causes that frequently come up in our meetings.

1. ***Being in a Hurry*** – Sometimes employees feel rushed and want to get a job done quickly. Many tell us that they were injured because of this need to hurry. Being in a hurry causes one to sacrifice safety.
2. ***Taking Chances*** - Daring behavior or blatant disregard for safe work practices can put you and other staff members at risk. Follow all safety rules and watch out for your fellow employees.
3. ***Being Preoccupied*** - Daydreaming, looking at one's phone, or thinking about the weekend and not paying attention to your work can get you seriously hurt. Maintaining focus is difficult for most people, but it is essential to minimize the risk of accidents.
4. ***Disregarding safety rules or cutting corners*** – The safe way may not be the shortest, but safety procedures are in place for a reason. Ignoring these procedures could result in disaster. The following rules are some of the best safety tools for school employees:
 - Never remove or tamper with a machine safeguard.
 - Utilize lockout/tagout procedures for all machinery repairs or electrical work.
 - Always wear the proper personal protection equipment (PPE) for the task.
 - Use the right tools for the job.
 - Can't reach something overhead? *Get a ladder!*
 - Moving an awkward load? The buddy system will help save your back.

- Moving a heavy load? Use a cart, hand truck, or pallet mover.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times—remove obstacles BEFORE you begin.
- Always maintain a safety-first attitude and alert your supervisor if you witness unsafe practices.

5. **Failing to Look for Hidden Hazards** - Work conditions are constantly changing. Sometimes new, unexpected hazards develop. Always be alert for changes in your environment. Hidden hazards include spilled liquids that could cause slips and falls; out-of-place objects that can be tripped over; a deteriorated or uneven sidewalk; a defective chair; or a book bag in the middle of an aisle. Try to keep focus on where you are going and where your path leads.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Reducing the number of accidents is also one of our major goals. Nationally, out of every 330 accidents, 300 produce no injuries. In addition, 29 out of 330 produce minor injuries; while 1 out of 330 accidents produces a major injury. By looking at our accidents and causes, we hope to find remedies so similar accidents are avoided by other employees.

EMPLOYEE ACCIDENTS IN AUGUST

1. An employee burned her finger while removing a hot pan from an oven.
2. An employee struck a door stop that was sticking out causing a foot injury.
3. While lifting a trash bag into a dumpster, an employee struck her elbow on the dumpster causing an injury.
4. A student bit an employee who was using a CPI hold on the student.
5. A student head butted an employee causing a concussion.
6. An employee sustained an injury from dropping a desk on her foot.
7. An employee injured his hand while in a student initiated altercation.
8. After assisting a student, an employee raised his head and struck a cabinet causing a laceration.
9. An employee stepped off a riser and sustained an ankle injury.
10. A dishwasher rack struck an employee in the face causing injury to her lip.
11. An employee was not seated on a bus as the driver began moving forward causing her to fall.
12. An employee sustained a burn from an oven door.
13. An employee suffered a back injury from lifting a student.
14. An employee slipped on a floor and received injuries to her arm, hip, knee, and leg.
15. An employee cut her ear from tripping over a carpet.
16. An employee received a scratch in the face from a student.