

Everyone Goes Home “SAFE”!

Making the Most of Safety

Opportunity Knocks is how the saying goes, but when it comes to Safety, it is often less gracious. Sometimes opportunity kicks down the door, as when an unseen hazard is discovered through a fatality, disabling injury, or other tragic incident. By then it's too late for our co-workers, friends, and loved ones. Most often, we hear opportunity pounding at the door in the form of Recordable and First Aid injury cases such as cuts, scrapes, sprains, and bruises. We respond to these because the incident is right there to see and think about. It's easy to make the connection between the action and the outcome. But for every incident which is seen, there are often hundreds or even thousands that are unseen.



Remember the Safety Pyramid? It's a model or picture of the numbers of incidents in a facility by severity. The top represents the infrequent severe incidents (major fires, explosions, fatalities, and serious injuries). The middle represents the more common but less severe incidents (releases, small fires, spills, recordable and first aid cases). The base represents the vast majority of all our incidents. These are the **unheard incidents**, the near misses, unsafe conditions, and unsafe acts lying in wait for us. The good news is opportunity is at the bottom of the pyramid and there's lots of it available!

Do you hear the knocking? If we are listening carefully and keep our eyes open, we will both hear and see many Safety Opportunities in our everyday work.



After all safety is everybody's responsibility, right? Simply put that means, "Practice safety for yourself and those around you".

Everyone has a job duty to identify and report hazards. Sure, it may not be written in your position description, but it's expected by management and your co-workers. An unreported near miss is a lost opportunity to prevent an incident. So let's take Safety to a New Level, a lower risk level that is, by reporting near misses and unsafe conditions.

Supervisors, are you listening? Near miss reporting is a challenge you have to take on. The refinery needs to learn from them in order to prevent future incidents which may have more severe outcomes. Get in the habit of asking your employees about near misses and unsafe conditions on a daily basis.



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Ask employees to discuss the circumstances and their thoughts on corrective actions.

Review reports with your manager and enter safety work orders for unsafe conditions. Make a first report of incident in Impact for near misses. We're getting better at this over time, but have a long way to go.

Why is all this necessary? If we don't answer the door when Safety Opportunities knock, they will surely come again with much more force and eventually kick down the door! Remember, no one controls the outcome of an incident.

The difference between a near miss and a tragedy can be a matter of inches and seconds! We can't take that chance with each other's lives. We have to act while there is time. ***"If only I had ..." is a hard place to be following a serious injury.***

Person by person, task by task, project by project - safety is built through individual commitment to reject risks. Don't accept near misses, unsafe conditions, and unsafe acts! Bring them to light, answer the opportunity and make our refinery safer. Be a blessing to your co-workers and their families. ***Make sure "Everyone Goes Home Safe"!***