

ES&H TOOLBOX TALK

COMMUNICATIONS

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2012– A SAFETY RESOLUTION

Let's propose an even more generic New Year's resolution this year. It is one that most of us have heard before – Take Personal Responsibility for Safety. Let's make this more than a common safety slogan but a solid resolution to drive our safety culture toward a goal of zero accidents.



The person who picks up the trash left behind on the lunchroom floor, doesn't ask who left the mess but takes personal responsibility to help remove a possible slip/trip hazard.

A healthy alternative to using the elevator would be taking the stairs instead. Following through to ensure a firm grip on the hand rail and not your cell phone. This puts personal safety responsibility to prevent a fall well within one's grasp.

All of the meetings we attend seem to be an unavoidable part of our daily work. On your way to the next meeting you observe what appears to be an unsafe or hazardous condition. Do you leave the responsibility to someone else to correct the hazard so you don't miss that next meeting? Take personal responsibility to intervene and stop avoidable accidents.

While sitting at your desk you're trying to catch up on what seems to be 1,000 e-mails, when you notice an co-worker struggling to carry an over size box. You could ignore the situation and reply to the lunch offer. Assisting the co-worker with a nearby hand truck, prevents a possible injury by taking personal responsibility to use the best safety practices.

We never seem to have enough time in the day to complete our daily work. Do you give yourself time to drive safely to and from work? Rushing to keep appointments keeps you from focusing on the road ahead. Take personal responsibility to give yourself an extra 10 minutes to get to your destination, making adjustments for traffic, weather or changing road conditions.

So there you have a few examples of taking personal responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy new year. This is one resolution that can easily be kept. Just keep in mind that this is not a short term goal. We are all in this for the long run.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year!!

MANY OF US WIND UP MAKING SHORT-LIVED RESOLUTIONS THAT RARELY PAN OUT. WE RESOLVE TO BE DIFFERENT OR LIVE BETTER, AND THEN SPEND A YEAR NOT ACHIEVING THESE GOALS.