

# Is it Safe There?

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I remember, as a youngster, --- and that is bragging on my long-term capacity to remember---, my dad would periodically bring home a little, comic book style, pamphlet titled "p.m." It was a rather simple reminder to he and his employees of the need to regularly inspect their equipment and to keep everything in good repair so the equipment was safe to use in the performance of their daily work.

Of course, it also provided many safety tips concerning the conditions of their workplace, that is, how to spot what was necessary to maintain a safe work environment

Having a policy and practice, to insure a safe work environment, is one of the best methods of assuring your employees that you are truly interested in their well-being, and that alone is important when soliciting their best effort in their assigned task.

To begin, a safe work environment is a well-organized, uncluttered work space that is well lit, adequate in size, and free of substances and/or objects that would be the source of slips/trips and falls. It should also have the necessary, well kept, tools and equipment to complete the work that is to be accomplished there. Another vital component in creating a safe and effective work environment is to staff it with personnel that are well trained for their assigned task.

Supervisors should encourage their staff to notify them of any area of concern so that remedial action can be promptly taken to rectify a problem. Regularly scheduled safety meetings are a good means of centering everyone's attention on details that need to be discussed and resolved.

All the same issues should be addressed in field operations as well as in the shop environment.

A field operation requires the same safety components in providing a safe work environment to complete the assigned task. Having the proper, well maintained, equipment and sufficient well trained personnel is essential.

Efficiency, not speed, is the proper guide as you approach planning and carrying out a task safely. Individuals become more prone to error if they do not take the time to plan and systematically approach their assignments.

Some simple recommendations:

- Periodically inspect your workplace for safety issues
- Maintain and/or replace tools and equipment so it is safe and effective
- Dress for safety, hard hats, eye protection, gloves, etc.
- Take advantage of all training opportunities
- Conduct periodic meetings to discuss safety issues
- Always be attentive to your task, avoid distractions
- Set as your goal each day, to be efficient in your work and to do everything necessary to safely return home.

Online training is available through the RMI Website for those participating in the LMRMA Risk pools. For information call us at (225) 344-5002 or (800) 843-0931.

