

Proactive Safety Leadership: How to Avoid Being Safe by Accident

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anger are only the start. Reporting often leads to unpleasant paperwork, investigations that feel like inquisitions, and sometimes discipline for those who report. Ensure that reporting is positively reinforced by letting those who report know that the information they provide will help prevent incidents.

Focus on Prevention.

Managing safety with lagging indicators leads to a reactive approach and can be misleading. Going for long periods without an incident is no guarantee that safety is under control. Leaders need to actively manage behaviors that prevent incidents, not just react when incidents occur. By focusing your management time and effort on preventative behaviors—what you and your team do each day to prevent incidents—you will have a much better sense of how truly safe your workplace is.

Consider Safety in Every Decision.

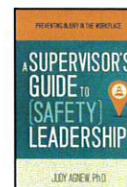
Organizations are interconnected systems. A change in one area inevitably has impact in other areas, often unanticipated. While it is impossible to anticipate all the ways a decision will influence safety, it is important to try. Senior leaders are always concerned about safety however; they are responsible for keeping their organizations profitable. It is easy to see how well-intended leaders make decisions that are good for the business but end up having negative implications for safety. Be sure to think through how each decision will affect the antecedents and consequences for safe and at-risk behavior at the front line and through all levels of management.

While there is much more to learn about becoming an exemplary safety leader, these tips can start you on the path to having greater impact on safety culture and safety performance.

ADI Safety Solutions

ADI is dedicated to accelerating the safety and business performance of companies worldwide using positive, practical approaches grounded in the science of behavior and engineered to ensure long-term sustainability. Some of the areas in which we help our clients excel include:

- Safety Leadership
- Safety Culture
- Safety Surveys & Assessments
- Behavior-Based Safety
- Safety Training



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