

Union Safety:

Assisting Management to Eliminate Hazards for Safer Workplaces

Do you know?

That the Occupational Safety and Health Act requires our employer to furnish to each of all employees a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees?

Do you know?

That most management safety and health programs aim to shift that burden to the worker by focusing on the employee's behavior in an inherently risky situation.

TRUE OR FALSE?

It is difficult, and in fact, almost impossible to be injured in most industrial workplaces today unless a worker is unsafe.

FALSE!! This statement was made by a management consultant to a major employer conference. Sounds to us like he never worked a day in his life.

Workers know that industrial work is inherently hazardous. While working safely is a **component** to a safe workplace, it cannot be the only focus of a safety program or the main component. It seems almost elementary to say that a safe workplace must begin with the workplace itself; yet employer programs consistently avoid this point by focusing on the worker. Union safety programs aim to address hazards existing around the workers to adequately eliminate the opportunity for accidents.

Recent Domtar safety proposals, worker behavioral safety programs and incidents at our workplaces have led the Domtar United Union Council to believe that we need to insert a hazards based approach to our safety programs. This will be a key in our agenda as we move forward to insure safe workplaces for all of our members across the Domtar system.

SAFE WORKPLACES THROUGH A UNION APPROACH TO FIND AND FIX HAZARDS



Building A Better Future