

## Too Many Excuses

Consider this statistic: 80 out of every 100 accidents are someone's fault and it is usually the person involved in the incident. Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions.

Accidents occur for many reasons. Unfortunately, too many employees and supervisors tend to look for unsafe conditions to blame the accident on, instead of looking for the root cause of the accident – which usually points directly at the unsafe acts of people.

Consider the possible accident-causing excuses below. Have you been guilty of any of these attitudes or behaviors?

1. Taking Shortcuts – Every day we take actions to make our work faster and more efficient. However, make sure these time savers do not risk your own safety, or that of others. Shortcuts that reduce your safety on the job are not shortcuts, but a recipe for injury.
2. Being Overconfident is a Good Thing - Overconfidence is too much of a good thing. Being overconfident can lead to the "It'll never happen to me" attitude, which can quickly put you in harm's way.
3. Starting a Task with Incomplete Instructions - To do the job safely and right the first time you need complete information. Ask questions if you need to. It is not dumb to ask questions; it's dumb not to ask questions. You'll be more likely to do the job right, on time and without injury.
4. Poor Housekeeping - A quick look at your site's housekeeping usually provides a good indicator of quality, production and safety. Poor housekeeping not only creates all types of hazards, but sends a bad message about your work and your company. Practice good housekeeping. Your job will be safer and more productive as well.
5. Ignoring Safety Procedures - Luckily the individuals who ignore or purposely break safety rules are few and far between. Not only are you breaking company rules and may be disciplined, but it's just a matter of time before an accident occurs. If you're one of these individuals – now is a good time to change your ways.
6. Mental Distractions from Work - Having a bad day at home and thinking about it at work is a hazardous combination. Dropping your mental guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures. Do not become a statistic because you took your eyes off the machine "just for a minute."
7. Failure to Pre-Plan the Work - You've heard the saying, "Plan your work and then work your plan." Always plan your work and include safety in that plan. Well planned work does not usually result in accidents.

**OSHA SAFETY TRAINING CERTIFICATION FORM**  
**Toolbox Topic Covered: Too Many Excuses**

Print Name

Signature


Supervisor/Foreman Signature: \_\_\_\_\_