

# Influencing Attitudes for Safety

## Do attitudes matter?

Attitudes have a great deal to do with how employees perform their daily tasks. Positive attitudes are conducive to safety performance and productivity, while negative attitudes can lead to accidents and injuries.

**Negative attitudes:** Certain attitudes towards safety can put people at risk.

- **Over-confidence:** The belief that experience and skill can replace the need for safety precautions.
- **Under-confidence:** The belief that you are unable to influence your safety environment. Possible underlying beliefs include:
  - That safety is a matter of chance, fate, or destiny, rather than personal action.
  - That the nature of your job requires overlooking safety practices.
  - That your organization does not really care about safety, and they will not listen to your concerns.
  - That making safe choices will have a negative impact on how you are perceived by coworkers, because it will slow you down.

**Positive attitudes:** People play an active role in their own safety when they believe that they can and should do so. Positive beliefs include:

- Accidents have causes, and they can always be prevented.
- Accidents interfere with production; therefore, safe work is efficient work.
- Working safely shows care for family and loved ones.
- Organizations want safe working environments.
- Coworkers will respect good judgment and safe choices.
- Working safely is a mark of skill and positive professional conduct.
- Contributing to an organization's positive safety record is important.



## Create a culture of safety:

- **Attitudes are contagious:** Creating a good environment for safety practices and ideas makes everyone more likely to accept them.
- **Attitudes are influenced by example:** Set an example by working safely and working for safety. Others will be influenced by what they see.
- **New hires are impressionable:** They are strongly influenced by the behavior of the veteran workers and supervisors. Be sure new hires are given the correct direction and safety instruction right from the start.

*Positive safety attitudes will spread throughout the work culture if each employee takes an active part in the discussion of how accidents can be prevented.*

# Influencing Attitudes for Safety

This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Trainer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Class Participants:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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