



Shortcuts & Safety



Make Your Choice...

Taking shortcuts is an individual choice.

Of course, there are many factors that affect whether you will make the choice to do so, but it is ultimately a choice that is made.

The decision to take a shortcut can be influenced by many different factors.

It is important to realize this fact and take steps to avoid taking shortcuts, especially when it comes to safety on the job.

Safety Shortcuts...

- Not implementing all safeguards. Work tasks usually have several safeguards that are to be implemented prior to starting the task. Each safeguard is a way to protect yourself and others from injury.
- Not wearing the required PPE. PPE is the last line of defense for workers.
- Rushing during tasks or not taking the necessary time to do certain tasks. Many things can be missed when rushing during a work task. This can lead to injury.

Avoid Taking Shortcuts...

Hold yourself to a higher standard.

- Do not take the easy way out. Take the time and energy to perform tasks correctly.
- Make it a habit to follow safety policies and procedures.
- Help set the expectation that shortcuts are unacceptable when it comes to safety. If coworkers see you taking shortcuts, they are more likely to do so themselves.
- Realize that shortcuts affect more than just you. They can result in negative impacts on production, property damage, as well as injuries.
- If facing a perceived time pressure, evaluate whether it is a self-imposed time pressure. Many times we put pressure on ourselves to perform a task faster when there is no real outside pressure to speed up completion of a task.
- Pre-plan work tasks ahead of time so the necessary tools, training, personnel, safety equipment, time, etc., are available. Having all the necessary items for work tasks can help to avoid the urge to take shortcuts.

Discussion point: What are other factors that may lead to taking a shortcut?



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Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members. Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan. Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, NIOSH, FRA, Safety Talk Ideas.com



