

Communication Activity

Learning Objectives:

After completing this activity, participants should be able to:

1. Understand the importance of communicating safety concerns at the workplace.
2. Evaluate potential positive and negative outcomes to determine an appropriate course of action regarding communication about a safety issue.
3. Feel more comfortable and confident in communicating safety concerns with an employer.

Safety Requirements

1. None

Equipment/Supplies

1. Problem Scenario
2. Communication Chart

Activity/Demonstration

1. Provide participants with the activity scenario and the communication chart.
2. Have participants determine the issue or problem the scenario presents and put this into their communication chart.
3. Discuss possible courses of action (involving communication) to address the problem. Choose a course of action and fill in the chart under "DO", and the opposite course of action (DO NOT).
4. Discuss possible negative/positive outcomes for each course of action and fill in the corresponding spaces on the communication chart.
5. Evaluate the outcomes. Determine which course of action has the best possible results and make a decision on which action to take.
6. **Optional** – once participants have evaluated the outcomes and decided upon a course of action, discuss how to carry out that action. Walk students through basic analysis questions: WHO to talk to; WHAT should be communicated; WHEN should the communication occur; WHERE should it happen; WHY and HOW should it be done. Have participants role play the decisions made about communication in # 5 and # 6 above and discuss the effectiveness; problems that might be encountered; and alternative ways to communicate.

Problem Scenario

1. You are 15 years old and have been hired to work on a farm.
2. It is your second day on the job.
3. You have not had any training yet.
4. The boss asks you to climb to the top of the bin which is over 25 feet in height.
5. Once at the top, you are to evaluate the level of corn in the bin to determine if it is time to move the auger to another bin.

Discussion Points

1. Who has (or had) a job? Have you ever felt uncomfortable doing a job?
2. Have you ever been hesitant to approach your supervisor/boss about a workplace problem (i.e. a piece of broken equipment, a different way to do a task)? If so, how did you deal with the situation? What was the result of your action?
3. Does this work request involve any known hazards?
 - a. Height work always has fall hazards.
4. Is the work request dangerous and/or involve any risk to you as a worker?
 - a. This job is considered dangerous and is listed as a hazardous occupation order.
 - b. By law, workers under 16 cannot climb/work at heights over 20 feet.
5. Which outcome has the best result? What course of action should be taken? Could outcomes change if the action were different?
6. Remind participants it is okay to Stand TALL.
 - a. When a job is unsafe and/or against the law
 - b. When they have not had training for the job
 - c. When they don't understand what they are supposed to do
 - d. When they feel uncomfortable for any reason
 - e. Because you can always find another job & boss to impress
 - f. Because you can NEVER get your life back once it is lost

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

PROBLEM

Action

Negative Outcomes

Positive Outcomes

DO

DO NOT

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

PROBLEM

- You are 15 and hired to work on a farm.
- Boss tells you to climb up 25 feet (top of grain bin).

Action

Negative Outcomes

Positive Outcomes

DO Communicate

- Your boss could get angry with you
- You could get fired*
- Your hours could be cut

- Could keep you from getting hurt
- Could show you are really thinking about your safety
- Could prevent a very costly consequence for the boss

DO NOT Communicate

- You could be severely hurt or die if you were to fall

- You do not risk getting your hours cut or being fired
- You will not look like a complainer