

## The Importance of Safety Meetings: Your role in an injury-free workplace

Success within our program and the State of Louisiana includes and incorporates both quality work and a commitment to safety on the job. That's why we hold safety meetings on a regular basis. Whether you're a new employee or a seasoned pro, safety meetings provide a quick and easy way for us to show you ways in which you can reduce on-the-job accidents.

More importantly, safety meetings allow you an opportunity to relay safety and health concerns or improvement ideas to your supervisor. Often, some of the best safety ideas come from you.

### Your Role at Safety Meetings

Be an active listener or reader. Even if the topic is something you are familiar with, safety hazards, procedures and precautions are constantly evolving and changing. Don't be tempted to tune out or let your mind wander; you are sure to learn something new or be reminded of an important safety practice or policy change.

Be an active participant. If the meeting leader can draw on worker experiences, that will remind all employees – especially newer ones – that hazards in the workplace are a reality. If others may be able to learn from your experience, speak up or share the story.

### Safety Topics

Topics discussed at safety meetings are presented because they are potential safety hazards for your area. If you encounter workplace hazards that you'd like to discuss, suggest them to your supervisor for a future meeting topic or report them for corrective action.

### Safety First

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. To keep our workplace safe, we need every employee's commitment. We all need to do our part to promote safety, and regular meetings are an important part of our program.

Why should you focus on safety? Data indicates that workers who suffer a disabling injury can lose 40 percent of their income over five years. And the loss means more than just less money; increased stress and conflict associated with occupational injury and illness can be painful for families, too.

Participate in safety meetings to help the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the State of Louisiana in our commitment to provide a safe and healthy work environment.