



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

MSU DAWG TRACKS

And yes, time keeps moving on – here we are now in the beginning of the year 2019! A perfect time to really start those things we have been putting off until next week, or when summer comes, or when the time changes back – a new year is a new opportunity to improve.

Think about your work-related goals. Do some of them include increasing safety in your department, for your workers and for yourself? Here are a few ideas to help get some safety included in those goals for the New Year.

1. Form a safety supply cabinet/bag.

Is there a good supply of safety items at the office, shop, or in your work vehicle? It is a fact that workers are more likely to use safety equipment during a job task if it is readily available. Keep a stock of each item that may be needed for the work area. Then when stock gets down to 2 or 3 items buy more before running completely out.

What's needed in your supply? Maybe...

- Safety glasses
- Leather work gloves
- Rubber/nitrile gloves
- Ear plugs
- Sunscreen
- Small bottles of eye wash & other 1st aid supplies to restock those boxes
- Locks & tags for lockout
- Spare fire extinguishers
- Dust mask
- High visibility vest
- Chainsaw chaps

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2. Attend at least 2 training sessions this year related to your job task.

Opportunities to learn increase job performance giving people motivation to continually grow. This can help get work done more efficiently and even safer. The training may be safety specific (for example - fire extinguisher use, lockout procedures, lab safety, ag machinery safety, hazardous waste), or could be training on a topic in your field that has safety related components. Any topic that helps you understand the why and how of a subject also helps you work safer.

3. Network with people in your career field and attend a trade show.

There is no better way to find people that share the same work interest and goals than joining an industry organization. Most organizations hold meetings with educational sessions and trade shows. If you have never been to such gatherings, you should. It is always interesting to see the trends, new equipment and get ideas from other peoples programs and experiences to help with job task and work safer. Connecting with people in related industries or at other universities with similar programs is a great way to help you work smarter and safer.

Supervisors Discuss:

- *Where is (or will be) the safety supply cabinet and what items should be stocked there?*
- *What kind of training is needed/available for the job task here?*
- *Name some helpful organizations related to your field of work and people that can help with similar job task (maybe even someone at another county office or MSU station).*