



Safety Matters

How Could This Accident Have Been Prevented?



Everyone who reports an accident to Broadspire that involves injury to anyone on the OSU payroll must be prepared to answer a lot of questions. What is the person's name, address, age? What day did it happen? What happened and what was the injury? Were there any witnesses?...and so on. But towards the end of all this inquiry, there is a very important question, "How could this accident have been prevented?"

This question is designed to make the caller, usually a supervisor, stop and think. It catches many people off guard. A lot of accidents seem to "just happen." But with a little thought (hindsight), we begin to see what should have been done. Sometimes the answers are simple; "She should have been going slower," or "He should have asked for help." Other cases require more thought and further action.

Is there any way this task could be done differently so it doesn't pose such a risk? Was the injured person wearing proper protective clothing or gear (shoes, goggles, gloves)? Is specialized training needed? Remember, it is the supervisor's responsibility to see that an employee is not only well trained and is doing the job safely, but that the work area and the job itself are designed properly. The supervisor has several options:

- Use accidents to provide ideas on future topics for Quarterly Safety Training.
- Call EHS (744-7241) to schedule in-depth safety training.
- Call EHS to request an ergonomic audit of a job task or work area.
- Report any unsafe conditions to EHS (call us or use Ethics Point Confidential Reporting)

Together, we can greatly reduce the number of accidents and injuries that are reported on OSU's campuses. For more safety information as well as a link to Ethics Point, go to the EHS website at www.ehs.okstate.edu.