

A Safety Note from Your Cooperative



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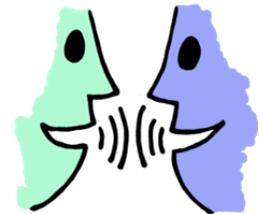
Rules We Live By . . . And So Can You

At the co-op, safety is a value we don't take for granted. We work together every day to do our jobs safely so we can all go home at night, and back to our families. At the foundation of our safety efforts, are the safety rules. We know these rules are in place for our protection.

So, could these same rules help protect you? Let's look at a few now.

Rule - Prior to the start of a job, or if conditions change, a job briefing will be conducted by the person in charge; this job briefing will be documented. This rule means our employees talk at the job site so they understand the job, discuss how it will be done, review what the hazards are of the job, and how are they protected from the hazards, etc. Our employees also document the discussion.

So, how could you incorporate this rule at home? Simply talk about the job you are going to do with the people involved BEFORE you start it. For example, are you decorating the outside of your house with holiday lights? Then, talk about where the power lines are located, how are you moving the ladder around, are the lights in good working order, etc.



Rule - Every employee is required to conduct a walk-around inspection of the vehicle prior to operation. I know one employee that drove a co-op pickup truck to the local bank and then back to the co-op, while the tailgate was down and all the tools were laying on it. I don't think a walk-around had been done, do you?

But, this rule is bigger than that – it is about saving lives. I think this picture explains why this rule is so important – both at work and at home.

Walk around your vehicles BEFORE you operate them – every time – all the time - enough said!

Rule - Personal protective equipment (PPE) is vital to safety; if an injury occurs as a result of failure to wear the proper PPE, this action will be considered an unsafe act. When it comes to protecting ourselves, investing in your personal protective equipment is cheap compared to the cost of an injury or the loss of a life. So, buy those chain saw chaps for cutting wood, hearing protection when operating your lawn mower, safety glasses for using the power tools, etc. And, here is one more reminder. It is one thing to buy them – now make sure to WEAR your PPE.



Because the rules come down to this fact. I can't make you be safe – it has to be up to you – choose safety – choose life!