

Over the last couple of weeks, there have been some serious accidents within the construction industry. Many of these accidents are the result of complacency on routine job assignments. Many of these workers have extensive experience and training, yet even with the quality of training and years of experience, injuries continue to happen. Have you heard the saying "I've been doing this for 30 years this way"?

The problem is once the attitude of the worker is "it won't happen to me", complacency has settled in and the probability of an injurious accident rises.

The term **complacency** has several definitions. Perhaps the one most suitable (in the context of safety) is as follows, "a feeling of quiet pleasure or security, often while unaware of potential dangers, defects, or the like".

Ironically, this feeling can develop from a perception that you live and work in a safe environment. Workplace incidents and accidents when they do occur, are often of a minor nature.

The message here is, never let your guard down. We maintain our safety by doing just that, "maintaining it".

The ways we maintain our safety:

- We maintain a safe workplace by following established protocols and procedures.
- We have safety meetings to discuss changes and potential hazards that develop from day to day on our worksite.

- We wear the appropriate PPE for the task at hand.
- We complete a Job Hazard Analysis before starting a task.
- We can take a "Four Second Reset" to stop and think about the safety side of the task we're about to start.
- We manage our "Zone of Control" on the worksite. Hazards identified, eliminated or controlled. Maintaining housekeeping and organization. Other workers and/or mobile equipment coming into your work area.
- We report any and all perceived or potential hazards on the worksite.
- We report all near misses. When reported, we are able to collect information, identify trends, correct current problems, and prevent future incidents and injuries from happening.
- We coach, mentor and watch out for each other throughout the day.

A level of safety in the workplace where incidents are a rare occurrence, does not guarantee future success. However, it is an indication of a strong safety culture. It's up to all of us to never let our guard down. Continuous safety maintenance is the backbone of a strong safety culture and a truly safe workplace.

Let's be safe out there!