

FIVE-MINUTE SAFETY TALK

Hurry up Can Hurt

Sports cars that hurry over a designated driving course in competition with others are usually marked with racing stripes. Antiseptics and bandages are the racing stripes people wear when they've hurried on the job.

Even people who have never been known for doing things speedily will hurry through certain activities on occasion. There are a couple of frequently used sayings concerning this type of behaviour, such as, "Haste Makes Waste" and "The Hurrier I Go, the Behinder I Get." Another one which is more closely associated with safety on the job is, "Hurrying-Up Can Hurt."

In most instances, hurrying on the job has little to do with the increased production. It usually is connected with attempting to do something the easy way, getting a tough job over and done with quickly, or getting off the job as soon as possible. All of these reasons for hurrying lead to unsafe acts and injuries.

The rally driver may "lose it" on a curve if he's going too fast or knock down pylons if he's cutting it too short on the turns. We have similar results with unwarranted hurrying and shortcuts. These types of accidents are easy to identify, but there are others resulting from being in a hurry that we should consider for a moment. For instance:

Using the wrong ladder for the job just because it's closer than the one that's the right height;

Not wearing safety glasses because the job will only take a second;

Charging through a door without regard for fellow employees right behind or ahead of you;

Not taking time to properly lock-out and tag machinery you want to make repairs on;

Carrying a heavy object without first planning a safe route;

Leaving water or oil on the floor for someone else to wipe up—probably with the seat of their pants.

Sometime, think back to an incident when you nearly got hurt. When you review the circumstances of the near-miss, there's a good chance that hurrying was part of your difficulty. If you took a shortcut, you probably realize, as most of us do sooner or later, the shortcut really didn't save any time and wasn't worth the risk involved.

However, it should be pointed out that while hurrying unnecessarily is frowned upon, faster ways of doing things may be beneficial at times. If you think that there is a better way of doing a certain job, by all means bring it to the attention of your Supervisor. But don't proceed to use the new method or make any changes without first getting them approved.

One of the safest means of speeding up operations is through experience. As we become more familiar with our jobs, our efficiency and speed increase. But this is taken into consideration in planning jobs and how they should be handled; and then, of course, we all reach a point where increased speed through experience becomes negligible, and the danger of not remaining alert on the job grows.

As we indicated earlier, a lot of us get into trouble hurrying to get off the job. This carries over into the parking lot and all along the route home.

So if we all try to develop a steady pace while at work, driving to and from the job, or whatever, we'll find that things go better, and we can develop a productive routine that meets safety requirements.

Obviously, accidents cost money. So if you think that meeting the cost of living is rough now, just imagine what it would be like if you had to face expenses without a full pay because of a work injury. So, both physically and financially, hurrying can hurt.