



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

Wichita Chapter

October 2019

**What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say. -Ralph Waldo Emerson**

### Safety – OWN IT!

**YOU are the one person Most Responsible for YOUR SAFETY!**

Take Responsibility for your safety **and Keep your head in the game**. Watch out for co-workers, too!!! When a worker doesn't go home safe at the end of their shift, their family loses. Beware of situational blindness.

**Pedestrians.** Never assume that a driver or equipment operator will yield for you! They must see you First! And, even if they do, they may not have enough time to stop.

**Equipment Operators.** Pay Attention to what is going on around you. Use your mirrors and be cautious. Keep glass, mirrors and lights clean. Inspect equipment daily.

**Drivers.** Follow the rules of the road. Use caution at intersections. Avoid tailgating, use your lights from dusk to dawn. Only use fog lights in the fog.

**Team\Crew Members.** Avoid making assumptions – they generally lead to trouble - Communicate with co-workers, supervisors and contractors. Ask questions to make sure that expectations are clearly understood.  
-Never assume that your coworkers know what you're thinking!

### **On & Off the Job**

- Wear your PPE properly
- Stay focused on Safety
- Avoid taking Short Cuts
- Your family needs YOU!
- Don't let them down!

### **Complacency is Different**

Rushing, Frustration, Fatigue and Complacency can all lead to injury. But remember, Complacency is different. While we generally know when we are tired, frustrated or hurrying to complete a task, we often miss when we are being complacent. This is where the brother's keeper rule come in. We need to watch out for each other so that when one worker is being complacent (cutting corners, deviating from standard SOP, making bad decisions, etc.) we can respectfully challenge them and say, "wait a minute, let's talk about this!" That way the hazards can be reassessed and discussed to ensure nobody is being put into a unsafe situation.

### **Complacency can be deadly – Watch out for each other!**

A city sanitation worker suffered what police are describing as a serious head injury when he fell from the back of a slow-moving sanitation truck.

The incident happened about 10:10 a.m. at Main and North Division streets, Lt. Eric Johansen said. Police did not immediately identify the man but said he has worked for the city for several years.

*"It appears he may have misjudged his distance from the handle on the (back of) the truck," Johansen said.*

The truck had just started to move from a stop. The worker then fell backward and struck his head. He was taken to the a local medical center where he died.

### **Yes, the Pre-trip Walk Around Inspection IS IMPORTANT!!**

This is an oldie but a good one to share.

Many parents & grandparents have run over children in their own driveway. So on and off the job, take time to do a vehicle walk around if there are young children in the family/neighborhood.

A Pike crew member found this child while conducting a **CIRCLE OF SAFETY** vehicle walkaround of the company truck they were driving. The crew's day would have ended in needless tragedy, had the safety-conscious employee not gotten out of the truck to do the safety check.

Please share this eye opening, bone chilling photo and experience with your work groups.

This crew has also reported children climbing into the back of company vehicles. Remember when younger children play **Hide and Seek**, they are not thinking about Safety.

Just another reason for us to do the vehicle CIRCLE OF SAFETY before driving off in our vehicles. It is also a good rule of thumb to sound your horn prior to backing up, to warn those in the area of your intention. With so many focused on their cell phones, this should be a standard practice. **Be a Safety Leader, always conduct a walkaround!**



