

Safety Is Personal

With so much talk about safety programs, we sometimes forget that when it comes right down to it, safety is a personal thing.

The machine we work on can have guards, but if we don't use them, they won't do us much good.

There can be safety programs that have existed for years. The place can be covered with safety posters. Dangerous machinery can be guarded. We can all be shown the safe way to do our work. But none of these things will make us accident-free if we don't want to be. It is up to us. We must accept responsibility for our own safety and not depend on mechanical guards or on the other fellow.

When you drive a car, you accept such responsibility. You know you have brakes on your car, but you don't trust them completely. You drive more slowly if the traffic is heavy or the roads are bad.

It's the same on the job. Your machines are guarded; nevertheless, you still have to be careful. And certainly you will have to use the guards--just as you use the brakes on your car.

What counts in the long run is a firm belief on the part of each one of us that we have to do everything we can to work safely. We've got to use the guards, wear the footguards and the glasses, follow the rules for using tools, and pay attention to the safety posters. No one else can do the safety job for us.

Safety is a personal thing. Accidents happen to us individually! Any of you or I may be injured because we haven't made safety a personal thing. Any of you or I may avoid injury because we use the guards, follow the safe ways of doing our work, and pay attention to the safety signs.

Some safety experts say that 85 percent of all accidents are caused by people; the other 15 percent are caused by unsafe conditions. Who do you think causes the unsafe conditions? Think about it! Think about it very hard!

It's up to you to prevent accidents!