



# The Porcelain Press

NSWC Indian Head Division  
Safety Department Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> InSTALLment

Distributed to a Restroom Near You

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## **Safety is Our First Priority?**

We've all heard the lines: "Safety First!" or "Safety is our First Priority!" If you ask your Supervisor, Branch Manager, Division Director or Department Head if they want you to take short cuts to get the job done, they'll tell you, "No, because that's how people get injured, and equipment gets damaged."

But to say that Safety is a priority means that it will change based on the needs or urgency of the moment and shifted with other priorities. This is what happens when time is getting tight, you are in crisis mode, and your deadline is running up on you. That's when the saying that isn't said out loud, but comes through loud and clear rears its ugly head, "Safety is an obstacle in the road to mission completion."

Did the risk of injury or equipment damage go down because you are working against a tight deadline? No! The risk is actually higher now, because everyone is worried they will not meet the deadline, and they are no longer working carefully. Safety must be considered a core value that is instilled in all parts of the organization. It needs to be a mindset and attitude for everyone at work and home. Then when priorities change you will always have your core values to keep you safe.

What can you do? Instead of "Safety First," it should be "Safety Always." If everyone is consciously trying to do things in a safe manner, and looking for better ways to do their job, then when a crisis occurs you continue to work safely.

Working safely keeps you and equipment from being damaged. There is no job that is so urgent that we can't take the time to do it safely.

## **Safety Always!**

Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant Stefan 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let it fly and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop!

Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him.

"The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him" said flabbergasted police detective Erik Dern. With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that proves that "Shit happens!"

## **Ask the Safety Wiz**

The Safety Wizard will answer your questions and concerns about the safety program!

**Dear Wiz:** How can you expect a true transformation in improving safety when no dollars are being allocated to achieve this goal?

**- Put your money where your mouth is**

**Dear Mouth:** Improving the safety program in your work area comes down to your involvement, not extra dollars. Did you know that the main cause of 80% of our incidents is human error and failure to follow documented procedures? I am not sure of a way that more money can help individuals shut down operations when procedures cannot be followed. It doesn't take extra dollars to have employees wear the proper PPE. Does it take any extra money to alert your supervisor of unsafe conditions or actions in the workplace? Surely it doesn't take any extra dollars to stand back and think about the risk associated with a task before you start the work. Improving safety at a workplace is no simple matter. If all it took was money to make us safe, we would have solved all the safety problems long ago. It involves a change in culture. It requires a commitment from you not money to practice safety throughout the workplace.

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Unscramble the 8-word phrase below:

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ytr ntcidcaes