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# safety talks: Why to conduct them

A safety talk is a quick five-to-20-minute meeting held with employees that covers a specific safety topic. These types of meetings can be extremely effective in raising awareness and creating a place for questions and concerns regarding workplace safety. Topics covered are directly related to the employees in attendance.

*Why hold safety talk meetings?*

* Safety talks can be a quick refresh of safety expectations without a formal in-depth training session
* When used along with a formal safety training program they can be used to fill in gaps regarding specific safety training requirements
* These types of meetings bring focus on the task at hand
* They are typically held in the morning or before shifts
  + This can be beneficial given the distractions that can be going on with each employee, such as personal life matters, stressful traffic on the way in, having slept poorly etc. Everyone gets the chance to reset and get prepared for the work ahead
* When safety talks are held at the start of each shift or day, employees become safety conscious more automatically; simply by covering the correct actions to take repeatedly
* These types of meetings are a quick way to bring workers up to speed when processes or policies change or when new equipment or tools are introduced
* Safety talks can lead to being more efficient and producing a higher quality of product or service
  + This in turn can cause many companies to win bids or be chosen over a company with a worse safety record
* Companies that are unsafe are sometimes viewed as unprofessional or as a company others avoid doing business with
* Safety talks can raise awareness on topics that may not warrant in depth coverage
* These meetings create a comfortable environment to discuss safety expectations and answer questions
* They make it commonplace and a comfortable environment to discuss recent incidents or near misses as well as any trends that are identified within the company
* Accident expenses can add up quickly causing a change in where money must be designated within the company such as employee salary and other investments

These meetings help to improve company culture. Employers that hold safety talks consistently, show that their employees’ safety is a priority and worth investing in.