



Spartanburg County

MARCH – APRIL 2013

RISKY BUSINESS

Mission Statement:

At Spartanburg County, safety and health are a shared responsibility. Everyone from administrators, to each and every employee, must take ownership of his/her safety and that of their co-workers.



Promoting Safety Culture

Safety cultures consist of shared beliefs, practices, and attitudes that exist at an establishment. Culture is the atmosphere created by those beliefs, attitudes, etc., which shape our behavior.



Safety culture change is not simple: it involves people's values and beliefs, guiding their behavior, and developing and maintaining robust, effective safety management systems. As such, it's a major challenge that

takes a great deal of time and hard work from everyone involved.

An organizations safety culture is the result of a number of factors such as:

- + Management and employee norms, assumptions and beliefs
- + Management and employee attitudes
- + Values, myths, stories
- + Policies and procedures
- + Supervisor priorities, responsibilities and accountability
- + Production and bottom line pressures versus quality issues
- + Actions or lack of action to correct unsafe behaviors
- + Employee training and motivation, and
- + Employee involvement of "buy in"

In a strong safety culture, everyone feels responsible for safety and pursues it on a daily basis; employees go beyond "the call of duty" to identify unsafe conditions and behaviors, and intervene to correct them.



Safety Culture: Lead by Example

A safety attitude must be contagious. It must be seen not as the enemy trying to impede the process, but as employees

dedicated to a safer work environment, while fighting for everyone's safety every day.

Employees need to see and feel the commitment to providing a safe and healthy work environment. Seeing improvements or changes made in the name of safety demonstrates management's dedication and goes a long way to getting everyone involved.

Safety rules must be consistently and firmly enforced to let everyone know that following established safety policies is just as important as quality, deliver and productivity.

Having the support and resources of everyone makes a world of difference when you can't be everywhere 24/7. Keeping everyone thinking and acting safely every day requires effort. Get out there, let them see you, be accessible, encourage suggestions and show your commitment by implementing changes and improvements that make for a safer work environment.



11 Public Places with the Most Germs

Respiratory droplets - - the medical community's polite term for what comes out of person when they sneeze or cough - - are filled with the germs that made the person sick. When we cough or sneeze they disperse widely, landing here and there, where they waiting patiently for someone to touch them (research shows they can remain potent for several hours). Once on someone's hands, they stand a good changes of infecting them, since it is human nature to frequently touch our faces. Think of things that are touched by many people in a day, and you'll come up with the places where germs are shared. These can include:

1. Handrails and door handles

2. Elevator buttons
3. Grocery cart handles
4. Restaurant menus
5. Money from a cash register
6. Light switches
7. Salt and pepper shakers in restaurants
8. Salad bars
9. ATMS machines
10. Exercise equipment
11. Water fountain handles

Makes you nervous doesn't it? Relax. It takes just a little common sense and attention to protect yourself from public germs. Here are ways to keep germs at bay:

Handwashing. Always wash your hands before cooking, eating, or inserting your contact lenses. Wash your hands after cooking, using the toilet, petting an animal, handling garbage, blowing your nose, or coughing or sneezing into your hand. It doesn't matter if you wash with regular or antibacterial soap as long as you do a thorough job.

Use hand sanitizer. Alcohol-based sanitizers that require no water are among the greatest health inventions of recent time. They're efficient at killing germs, whenever and wherever you encounter them, without the need of water or towels.

Keep hands away from your face. No matter how many times you wash them, if you are in public, your hands will pick up germs. Germs will quickly enter your body if you rub your eyes or nose, stroke your chin, or touch your lips.



Avoid the communal candy bowl or cookie jar. Given that only 67% of people who say they wash their hands actually do, and that only a third of those people use soap, you can imagine what's lurking in there!