



Hurry Up Can Hurt

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A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

In the same way that race cars are marked with racing stripes, people who race on the job are marked with cuts, bruises and bandages. Almost all of us have been guilty of racing through a job at one time or another. Here are some hurry up acts. Let's see which ones we've practiced lately:

- didn't wear safety glasses because the job would only take a few minutes;
- used the wrong ladder because the proper one was too far away;
- didn't use the proper lockout procedures because no one was around and it was easy to fix alone;
- took a short cut between machinery or stockpiles of materials;
- used a wrench instead of a hammer because the hammer was in the tool box on the other side of the room;
- climbed a ladder with a pocket full of tools because the tool belt had been forgotten;
- cut the grounding prong of a three-way ground wire plug because there wasn't an adapter;
- removed a guard to repair the machine or prepare it for a special run and didn't get around to putting it back yet;
- reached just a little bit further on the ladder because there wasn't time or energy to get down and move it;
- didn't unplug a power tool before making adjustments because it would only have to be plugged in again anyway;
- used a dull saw blade for just one more cut;
- gave a fork lift truck just a little more pedal so one more load would be done before lunch;
- laid a board full of nails down with the full intention of bending the nails over in a minute;
- climbed up the side of a bin instead of getting a ladder; or
- didn't slow down at a blind corner this time because no one has been there before.

Does any of this sound familiar? Or are these things only other people do? Often when we race through a job, nothing bad happens. Sometimes we may experience a "near miss." However, eventually a serious injury will happen because it is only a matter of time. Is it worth risking our eyes, our limbs or our life or someone else's to save a few minutes on the job? When we hurry up on the job we are often not only speeding up our work but speeding up our chances of having an accident. Hurry up can hurt.

Let's review some safe working practices:

- use personal protective gear when necessary;
- take the extra steps needed to do the job properly;
- always use the correct tool for the job;
- check to make sure safety guards are in place;
- follow lockout/tagout procedures as if a life depends on it – it does;
- keep the worksite tidy;
- return tools to their proper place;
- use proper lifting techniques; and
- be alert to ways in which the workplace can be safer.

Remember, practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

