

CHANGING UNSAFE BEHAVIOR (SHERIFF)

OBJECTIVES

- Staff will learn how everyday behavior impacts safety
- Staff will identify observed unsafe behavior at work
- Staff will learn the characteristics that constitute a positive safety attitude

We see unsafe behavior everyday in law enforcement. Why do deputies take chances with their lives or risk suffering a disabling injury at work?

(Note to presenter)

Ask the group the following question and discuss their responses, "What sort of unsafe behavior have you seen on the job?"

We would never:

- Walk down the middle of the Interstate at rush hour
- Stick our tongue in an electrical outlet
- Swim with an energized hair dryer in our hand
- Light a match to look inside a gas can

We would never engage in any of these behaviors because we know the consequences. These types of behaviors would likely get us injured or killed.

That same thought process- "knowing that certain behaviors can have very serious consequences"- can keep you safer at work when you apply it to your daily activities.

It's that simple. Most of our behavior will become second nature once we learn how to do things safely. Just remember, your actions do have consequences.

WHY WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT SAFETY

- Employees that don't work safely are at a higher risk of being injured. There are approximately 4.4 million workplace injuries and over 5,000 worker fatalities every year;
- A law enforcement officer dies in the line of duty every 61 hours in the US
- From 2004-2013, an average of 151 Officers per year lost their lives in the line of duty.

- No one likes pain! If you are injured, there is pain and suffering associated with the injury. If you could avoid an injury wouldn't you want to;
- Even with workers' compensation and disability insurance, most injured employees who are out of work receive less money than their regular wages. Lost time away from work will impact your salary, take-home pay;
- Your retirement contributions freeze while you're on workers' compensation. If you are on workers' compensation for a month, the time will not be credited toward your retirement;
- Employees that work unsafe don't just affect themselves; it can also affect the people working around you or the public coming into contact with our services.

DEVELOPING A POSITIVE SAFETY ATTITUDE

- Take responsibility for working safe. If you don't need to run code, don't; if you are on routine patrol, drive defensively and don't take chances. If a task requires personal protective equipment (PPE), use it.
- If you see an unsafe condition, you own it, either fix it or report it. This unsafe condition could seriously injure you or another deputy.
- Don't willingly or knowingly do something hazardous or unsafe.
- Don't get carelessness, be attentive to every situation. Understand that virtually every situation in law enforcement can injure you.
- Don't get complacent, just because you've done something many times in the past, doesn't mean you won't get hurt the next time. Understand that the more frequent you accomplish a task, the more likely you are to get injured.

POLICY

Discuss all organizational policies related to compliance with safety rules.

CLOSING

- *Discuss the presentation and the deputy's examples of unsafe behavior seen on the job*
- *Remind deputies that there are no legitimate reasons for not following all safety rules*