

Safety Meetings are important!

They: get your employees actively involved
encourage safety awareness
help identify problems before they become accidents
motivate employees to follow proper safety procedures

We are happy to provide you with a monthly topic for your agenda.

ROUTE TO:

- General Manager
- Safety Coordinator
- Supervisor Dept. _____
- Other _____
- Date of Meeting _____

July 2023

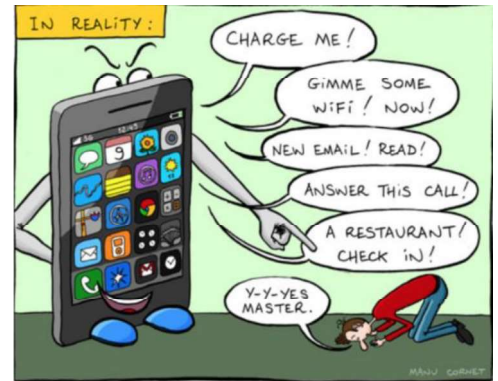
**Cell Phone Use
Tobacco and Vaping**

Cell Phone Use

Cell phones are a necessary tool for business operation, however, cell phones can present a hazard at our facilities as well as operating vehicles.

IN 2010, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation to combat distracted driving. By 2012 most states made “hands-free” use of cell phones in automobiles a law. But what about the other areas of business where cell phone use could be a hazardous distraction.?

[The Hartford insurance company](#) found the use of cell phones created distractions, errors and loss of productivity.



- Cell phone use can cause inattention on the plant floor, outside the facility, in a company vehicle, or on the job site
- Cell phone use in a noisy environment causes the user to focus even more intently on the call and less on their surroundings
- Co-workers can be distracted by other employee's cell phone use
- Inattention distraction may result in property damage or physical injury

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees; this may include limiting the use of cell phones in the workplace. A Cell phone use policy also decreases the chance for an employee to have a conflict with management over the use of a cell phone.

A cell phone policy should include:

1. Purpose of the policy and who is covered by the policy: keep people safe and is inclusive of all employees
2. When cell phone use is acceptable: sales calls, compliance calls, etc.
3. When cell phone use is unacceptable: operating any motorized vehicle (including forklifts), while working in the plant, loading dock and cylinder maintenance areas.
4. Cell phone etiquette: phones on vibrate during meetings, take personal calls in private, speak quietly and do not swear.
5. Policy compliance and enforcement.

There are several types of cell phone templates, that can be customized to fit your needs, on the internet.

Tobacco and Vaping

The use of tobacco (wet and smoked) are leading causes of heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, some cancers and pregnancy complications (CDC, 2022). And according to the CDC, scientists are still learning about the long-term health effects of vaping.



Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which has known health effects.

- Nicotine is highly addictive.
- Nicotine is toxic to developing fetuses.
- Nicotine can harm adolescent and young adult brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.
- Nicotine is a health danger for pregnant adults and their developing babies.



Besides nicotine, e-cigarette aerosol can contain substances that harm the body.

- This includes cancer-causing chemicals and tiny particles that reach deep into lungs. However, e-cigarette aerosol generally contains fewer harmful chemicals than smoke from burned tobacco products.

E-cigarettes can cause unintended injuries.



- Defective e-cigarette batteries have caused fires and explosions, some of which have resulted in serious injuries. Most explosions happened when the e-cigarette batteries were being charged.
- In addition, acute nicotine exposure can be toxic. Children and adults have been poisoned by swallowing, breathing, or absorbing e-cigarette liquid through their skin or eyes.

[\(CDC, "About electronic Cigarettes "E-Cigarettes." 4May2023\)](#)



Because the hazards associated with smoking, dipping and vaping are known, under OSHA's General Duty Clause we must provide a working environment free from these hazards; as well as, away from the hazardous materials we fill, store and transport.

A tobacco use and vaping policy should include:

1. Purpose of the policy and who is covered by the policy: keep people safe and is inclusive of all employees
2. When smoking, dipping, vaping is allowed: solely on scheduled breaks
3. Where smoking, dipping, vaping is allowed: specify designated areas
4. Policy compliance and enforcement

There are several Tobacco/Vaping policy templates, that can be customized to fit your needs, on the internet.

Training recommendation: Policy Review

If you have any questions on these subjects or other questions related to DHS, EPA or OSHA, please contact me.

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