

## Safety<sup>®</sup>

**Ramon M. Alaniz**

Hines Nurseries Inc., Irvine, California 92620

### INTRODUCTION

Safety is one of the most important activities of any kind in business. If a safety program is not implemented in your work place, your company is risking its profit margin and at the same time putting their employees in a danger. Also, insurance rates will increase, employees will stay out of work for longer periods of time, productivity will decrease, and the worst of all, employees will suffer economic loss, pain, and feel frustrated for not being able to work.

### SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

In order to be successful in safety, the first step is to consider the development of a safety committee. This team will sponsor safety meetings, distribute safety information to all employees and will have the opportunity to focus on specific hazards, operations, and attitudes. As soon as the safety team identifies these areas, they will start to develop safety check list and safety training sessions will be conducted. Eventually, if the program is working well, the safety team will involve the employees in solving safety challenges.

When an accident occurs it's very important to conduct an investigation of the accident immediately. This process will help everyone better understand how the accident occurred and will help identify actions needed to prevent the accident from occurring again. Conducting safety discussions related to the accident will provide all employees with the opportunity to know how the accident occurred and how they can contribute to preventing them in the future.

It is so important to provide safety equipment like safety belts, safety glasses, gloves, to the employees and to train them how to use the safety equipment properly. Conducting daily warm-up exercises before starting to work and also after lunch is a good method to reduce injuries and accidents in the work place.

Poor housekeeping also contributes to increased injuries. It's very important to maintain good housekeeping in all areas. A good two-way open communication must be in place among all the employees all the time in order to make them understand that housekeeping helps to reduce injuries. At the same time employees will feel comfortable working in a place free of injuries. "Remember that good housekeeping is everyone's responsibility".

Employees operating vehicles, tractors, electrical hazards, chemical hazard, and heavy machinery in the work place, should receive safety training before they start to operate the equipment. By providing this safety training many lives can be saved.

### RECOGNITION

Don't forget to keep in place a good safety recognition program, because it's one of the most important steps that will help to reduce accidents. Remember that everybody likes to be recognized for their efforts.