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Quick Thinking Prevents a Tragedy

Instructor -- Chris Jenkins

Division -- Seattle

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Job Name -- Kansas Project

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Comments:

Real-Life Example of See Something, Do Something.

A few weeks ago, one of our employees:working remotely by himself on an out-of-state project:identified a serious health hazard when another contractor was operating a welding machine powered by a gasoline generator inside an enclosed building with no ventilation. Recognizing the danger, he immediately acted: stopping the unsafe operation, notifying the GC, and alerting the responsible crew. By that time, the room had already begun to fill with enough carbon monoxide that workers were beginning to show early symptoms of poisoning.

Incredibly, the very next day the same situation happened again. Without hesitation, he once more intervened, informed the right people, and ensured the generator was shut down before anyone was harmed. His vigilance and willingness to act protected not only himself, but also every worker in that space.

For his quick thinking and decisive action, he was awarded the **President's Award for Safety Excellence**, recognizing his outstanding commitment to protecting others and upholding our culture of safety. This real-life example shows that when you see something and do something, you may be preventing a tragedy.

Why This Matters: Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning.

Gasoline-powered equipment produces carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, and deadly gas.

Without ventilation, CO builds up quickly in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces.

Symptoms of exposure include headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, rapid heartbeat, chest pain, confusion, loss of consciousness, and respiratory failure.

Severe cases can be fatal within minutes.

See Something, Do Something.

Noticing a hazard is only half the job: acting on it is what saves lives. Hazards won't correct themselves and waiting for 'someone else' to handle it puts people at risk. Whether it's a generator running indoors, a missing guardrail, or a coworker not wearing fall protection, every one of us has both the authority and responsibility to step up.

Taking action doesn't always mean shutting a job down. Sometimes it's as simple as moving a cord out of a walkway, reminding someone to wear their PPE, or reporting a concern to your supervisor. The point is this: don't walk past a hazard. Every intervention matters and the smallest action can prevent the biggest incident.

Key Takeaways

Recognize Hazards Immediately.

Be alert to equipment running indoors or in areas without adequate ventilation.

Trust your instincts: if something seems unsafe, it probably is.

Take Immediate Action

Stop work if necessary.

Inform the crew responsible and the GC right away.

Don't assume someone else will step in, your action could prevent an injury or fatality.

Protect Everyone, Not Just Ourselves

Safety isn't limited to our own crews; hazards affect all workers on site.

Stepping up reinforces our commitment to a safe workplace for everyone.

Remember This!

This near-miss incident is a reminder that vigilance, quick action, and communication save lives. By recognizing hazards and stepping up : even when it involves another contractor:you're protecting yourself, your crew, and everyone else on site, while upholding Hudson Bay Insulation's commitment to safety excellence.