

# Toolbox

## Safety Series



### **OBEDY THE UNENFORCEABLE**

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It has been said: "The measure of a civilization is the extent of its obedience to the unenforceable."

If we apply this thought to accident prevention, we might well say: "The degree of success in preventing accidents reflects the degree in which individuals obey the unenforceable."

Today is a good time for each of us to analyze our own attitudes toward the so-called unenforceable as applied to safety. If our individual analysis reveals an unsatisfactory frame of mind toward accident prevention, it must be corrected before our faults contaminate the attitudes of our family and associates.

We all know that attitudes are seldom fixed. They often change rapidly, depending on new knowledge and experience. Take your attitude toward a new worker. The first day you may think that person of pompous jerk. After several weeks, you discover that same person is one of the most interesting people you have ever met.

Attitudes toward safety can be just as varied – from the attitude that it is a crack-pot obsession foisted on us from above, to the attitude that safety makes sense and is well worth taking pains to achieve.

If our attitude toward safety as a group or as individuals is bad, it is probably based on the wrong facts, or facts poorly presented – or not presented at all. We must be acutely aware of the fact that every time we talk about safety with a co-worker, safety attitudes are being influenced for good or bad.

Accordingly, we owe it to each other to have ample facts on safety and present them in a reasonable and believable manner. Above all, we should avoid mere exhortation which tends to put safety in the crackpot class.

Don't belittle safety. It's the person who has been injured that knows this best. Take it seriously, and encourage the same point of view in others.

Take a good look around you. Are there dancing soda bottles on an air conditioning duct? Is there broken glass that should be replaced? No one will develop a sound safety attitude unless a safe environment in which to work.

Safety starts with people – you and me alike. We can make all the rules we like, but obedience to what is called the "Unenforceable" is our real problem.

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#### **LEADER NOTES**

**Objective:** To reinforce the concept of safe attitudes and how attitudes are formed.

#### **THE TALK – POINTS TO COVER**

- “The degree of success in preventing accidents reflects the degree in which individuals obey the unenforceable.”
- Today is a good time for each of us to analyze our own attitudes toward the so-called unenforceable as applied to safety.
- An unsatisfactory frame of mind toward accident prevention must be corrected before our faults contaminate the attitudes of our family and associates.
- We all know that attitudes are seldom fixed.
- Attitudes toward safety can be just as varied.
- We must be acutely aware of the fact that every time we talk about safety with a co-worker, safety attitudes are being influenced for the good or bad.
- We owe it to each other to have ample facts on safety and present them in a reasonable and believable manner.
- Don’t belittle safety. Take it seriously, and encourage the same point of view in others.
- No one will develop a sound safety attitude unless given a safe environment in which to work.
- We can make all the rules we like, but obedience to what is called the “Unenforceable” is our real problem.

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**OBEY THE UNENFORCEABLE**

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Record of those attending:**

Name: (please print)	Signature:

**Other safety issues or suggestions made by employees:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Manager's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)