

Behavioural Safety

Tutorial Seven

Not many people in the golfing industry understand the saying "Behavioural Safety". This terminology refers to the attitude of the individual or team in respect of actions to work and behave safely. Behaving safely is an attitude that many workers, employees, etc need to adopt to really improve the safety at their club.

So what does behaving safely really mean?

Behaving safely means taking the extra care and consideration to not put your own or others safety at risk. An example of not behaving safely in everybody's lives is driving too fast and without due care. The government estimated that approximately 40% of drivers drive without any consideration for their own or fellow drivers safety.

This statistics is reflected in the number of road accidents per day, the number of fatal accidents and the number of pedestrians killed. Almost all accidents are preventable and approximately 98% are caused by human error. So what goes wrong in this example; the main element is the driver, or drivers, forget the basic rules of driving safely and forget the respect and consideration needed to operate what is dangerous machinery. Quite often the drivers only really ever learn the hard way after the event when serious injury or even the cause of a death has occurred.

So what has this to do with the golfing fraternity; Golf courses require the use of some heavy and dangerous machinery as well handling of dangerous chemicals and in some cases lifting awkward and heavy loads.

If we as the golfing fraternity are behaving safely we will do things the right way which means the following:

- Take sufficient time and planning.
- Ensure we are trained for the task.
- Understand the hazards and risks.
- Comply with club procedures.

- Use the correct tools.
- Ask questions.
- Do not proceed if unsure of any item of the work.
- Act with respect to fellow workers and people in the area.

If we were not Behaving safely we are likely to carry the job out as such;

- Start the job without understanding what can go wrong.
- Use wrong tools and not change them due to delay in completing the job.
- Proceed without respect for persons around them.
- Not gain approval to proceed.

The concept of behaving safely becomes a new way of thinking for many people that have previously taken safety for granted, ie "It will never happen to me". It starts to become the right way, not the wrong way, it becomes an attitude passed on to others, it encourages more efficiency and pride in ones work, it promotes a positive way of thinking that will reflect in many other aspect of the club's performance.

Behavioural Safety is not something that happens instantly but takes time for persons to change their mindset and to adopt a better attitude. A person who is convinced of behavioural safety will ask a fellow worker a question as to the safety of a task with the aim of assisting them or preventing an accident.

Learn more about behaving safely and watch your work change for the better.

Jerrard Winter, Haztek International Golf Health and Safety Specialists. 0208 905 7552



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