Energize your safety committee

An active, engaged safety committee can have a positive impact on your workplace. Here are 10 ways to energize your safety committee and achieve outstanding results:

**When safety is valued:**
- Workplaces hazards decrease.
- Safe work practices increase.
- Pain and suffering is avoided.
- Morale goes up.
- Costs are controlled.

**Create a vision statement.** Keep it short and inspiring: “We want every employee to go home safely every day.” Post it for everyone to see. Consider having employees sign it. Review it frequently at safety committee meetings.

**Know your purpose.** Develop a safety committee charter. Outline specific roles and responsibilities. Emphasize that members can make a difference by preventing injuries, improving profitability, and insuring legal compliance.

**Recruit safety champions.** Find members with energy and enthusiasm for workplace safety. Ask what they need to stay engaged. Keep a good balance of employees and management. Change members periodically to bring in fresh ideas.

**Get support from senior management.** Ask top management to write and sign a safety policy statement. Remind supervisors to support all safety efforts. Invite executives to attend meetings. Seek financial and management resources.

**Set meaningful goals.** Use proactive measures to assess safety performance, such as the number of safety inspections, employees trained, and near misses reported. Focus on success.

**Stay upbeat.** Share a near miss or proactive measure that prevented an injury. Promote open communication and problem solving. Invite a third party, such as your SAIF safety consultant, to observe meetings and offer feedback.

**Become a high performance safety team.** A team implies action and purpose. Choose a name. Follow the three “P”s for success:
- **Planning.** Hold regular meetings and give them as much importance as other work activities.
- **Preparation.** Publish your agenda in advance. Make it specific, timely, and relevant. Stick to it.
- **Performance.** Have meaningful discussions, action items, and follow-up.

**Involves team members in meaningful activities.** Do a job hazard analysis. Assist with incident analysis. Assist with annual program review and revision. Develop safe operating procedures. Conduct safety orientations. Sponsor an ergo team.

**Acknowledge success.** Make posters, t-shirts, hats, or badges to identify team members. Celebrate successes in company meetings. Nominate employees who made a positive contribution as “safety stars.”

**Provide training and enrichment.** Invite outside speakers. Support attendance at OSHA classes and American Society of Safety Professional meetings. Encourage fun and creativity.