

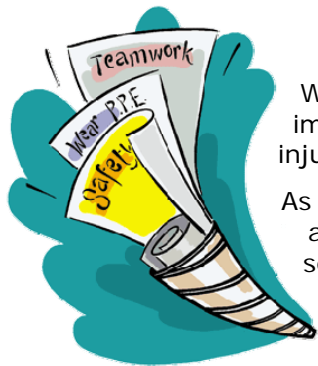
Army *Safety* Gram

Leading on the Edge for Safety *Excellence*

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Speak Up For Safety



When you get a good idea at work, share it. Your suggestion could be the one improving the quality of your product, speeding up the process or preventing an injury.

As the worker actually doing the job, you are in a unique position to see problems and find solutions. Since you are the one doing the job day after day, you might see things your bosses and the design engineers have overlooked. Your input before a decision is made to alter a work process or invest in major equipment purchases could save significant money and more importantly, save lives.

How you present your suggestion makes a difference in whether it is considered. These tips may help you to get your point across:

- ♦ Talk to the right person. Your supervisor is a good place to start, and he or she may send you to expand on your idea with someone else. Your safety committee also looks for ideas to solve problems.
- ♦ Bring up your ideas at your weekly safety talk or your pre-job briefing. Other workers may be able to add to your suggestions.
- ♦ Be positive. Instead of complaining about what is wrong, talk about how the problem can be solved.
- ♦ Be courteous. It's difficult to get anything useful out of an angry, rude speech.
- ♦ Timing is everything when it comes to approaching your boss with a suggestion. If it's one of those days when a big job has to be finished and everything seems to be going wrong, your idea might not get the best reception. Wait for a time when your boss can give your idea the attention it deserves.
- ♦ Many supervisors encourage their crew members to speak up. Some even hold brainstorming sessions to come up with possible solutions to problems. If you are part of an idea meeting, contribute as much as possible and encourage your coworkers to take part. Even the suggestions which are not chosen can lead to answers that work out. These meetings can be energetic and fun. Keep your comments on the topic.
- ♦ Some workplaces use suggestion boxes, allowing you to make a suggestion without being identified. Use the suggestion box the way it is intended to be used, to get ideas for improvements.
- ♦ You can do some research to back up your idea. Talk to your supervisor or your safety officer to get magazine articles or supplier information. The Internet has a wealth of information on industry and safety.



Whether your suggestion is to remove a hazard or speed up the process, it is important for you to communicate it. Your inspiration could save everyone some perspiration. It may save someone much, much more!