

# Be Your Coworker's Keeper

Protect coworkers from deadly distractions. Improve your own safety awareness. Have no regrets. These are just a few reasons why you should maintain a close watch on your fellow employees and ensure they are working safely.

**1. When you keep an eye on other people's safety, your own safety awareness improves.** Every one of us has a gift. We see hazards that other people don't notice, that makes us and our families safer.

**2. Even "safe" workers can get distracted.** When asked why they want to work safely, employees might cite their family, friends and off-the-job hobbies. Ironically, those very things may distract employees from their safe working practices. On a sunny summer afternoon, for example, an employee may be caught in a daydream about spending the day at the beach with his family or going golfing. Just like that, he's distracted from his work and might risk an injury. Watching out for your coworkers' safety can help prevent the problems that could arise from distraction.

**3. We're all at risk of occasional cognitive failure.** When you are staring right at your keys but still can't find them, or for a split second don't notice the car speeding along toward you on the road, you are experiencing cognitive failure. If this happens during a high-risk job, the consequences can be devastating. We watch out for people because they're not perfect, our brains fail us. Cognitive failure can set your best worker up for the opportunity to be injured.

**4. You'll never have to regret that you could have said something but didn't.** By speaking up if you see something potentially dangerous, you'll never have the nightmare of knowing you had the power to help change the outcome but failed to do so.

**5. It's just the right thing to do.** Maybe no one will praise you for pointing out a safety risk – at times, you might even be met with resistance – but it's simply the right