

Leadership and Mentoring



Washington
Hospitality
Association

Being a Safety Mentor Keeps Everyone Safe

Have you ever worked with someone who inspired you? A hardworking person can have a powerful influence on his or her team, especially when he or she is working with someone who is new to the job or to the company. As the co-worker of a new employee, consider yourself the most important role model during his or her first few weeks. Your attitude and your respect of policies and safety procedures could save a co-worker or a guest from an accident or serious injury.

A new employee's early impressions of the way you value safety will set the stage for their future work habits.

Be a Safety Mentor

You know that the workplace in the hospitality and recreation industry is full of hazards, both for employees and guests. It is important to take extra steps to keep premises as safe as possible and learn about the risks of the job and ways to stay safe. When you are working around others, especially if they are new to the workplace, it is your turn to share that knowledge to protect them, the customers and yourself.

It may take a while for new employees to adjust and feel like they fit in on the job. Those that have never held a job before or were employed by an organization with a weak safety program will need considerable safety instruction and leadership. While managers will attempt to train them in workplace safety as thoroughly as possible, employees will naturally look to you for advice and information. Their early impressions of the way you value safety will set the stage for their future work habits.

Actions Speak Louder than Words

In this important transition time, your actions will speak louder than your words. If you cut corners to save time when working with sharp or dangerous tools, for example, you demonstrate to a new employee that safety is not important. When you do not follow safety procedures, you are ultimately putting in danger new employees that are learning from and imitating you—and the guests whose safety is in their hands.

On the other hand, some new employees may come from organizations that emphasize safety. In that case, their personal respect for you will grow when they see that you care about workplace safety just as much as they do.

You are aware that accidents are a reality in workplaces. Take care to be sure that your new co-workers are aware of the danger, too. Doing so will keep everyone at your worksite safe.

Think again of that co-worker that has inspired you and do your best to keep him or her in mind when you are working with new employees. Everyone will be safer when you make a good impression on a new employee, so do your part. Now is your chance to inspire!



ERNwest.com

800.433.7601 | safety@ernwest.com

This flyer is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical or legal advice. © 2020 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved