



Safety Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.



Staying Focused

Often, the cause of an employee injury is “Not Focusing On The Job”. When performing a task or job with focus and concentration, employee injuries seldom occur. Less than two percent of our injuries are the result of pest control applications and/or pest control products. This is because we are focused on what we are doing, whether due to the consequences of misapplications or constant emphasis through training. Part of being focused is wearing personal protective equipment before starting the application. We should wear our personal protective equipment from the time we start our prep work until cleanup is finished.

The remaining ninety-eight percent of employee on-the-job injuries are the result of not focusing on what we are doing. This type of work is sometimes referred to as mindless work or activity since it does not require concentration or paying particular attention to what we are doing, i.e. unrolling or rolling up the applicator hose. Another example is loading or unloading equipment from our vehicle, such as a ladder or sprayer, bait stations, etc. Instead of paying attention to what we are doing, we are thinking about our bills, what we did last night, what we have to do at home tonight, the argument we had earlier with someone and anything else that pops into our head at the time. Consequently we are not focusing on the task at hand or taking the appropriate precautions.

We rely on our subconscious to operate our motor skills and to wake us should something disastrous or something that threatens our well-being occur. Unfortunately, our reaction time is not sufficient to prevent the injury. To prevent becoming injured, we must focus on all activities, regardless of how mundane or minute the task may seem. Focusing on what we are doing all of the time can prevent many injuries and mistakes. Both can be costly.

Driving a motor vehicle falls into the same category. We rely on our subconscious to operate the vehicle and get our attention when something unusual occurs. We conduct other activities such as operating the radio, using our cell phones, eating lunch, reading a map or work order and sight seeing to name a few, while our subconscious controls our vehicle. This is particularly dangerous since most other drivers are doing the same thing. Cells phones should never be used while driving. Please pull over to a safe location and stop.

To prevent on-the-job injuries and auto accidents, we must constantly focus on the task at hand and stop concentrating on other things. Stay Focused!