

A Funeral For Whom?

Visualize looking into the future. Immediate or down the road, it makes no difference. Now imagine you are present at a funeral. You're wondering who died? You witness people crying or openly grieving in their own way the loss of a loved one. You're still wondering whose funeral is this as you approach the grave-side ceremony.

The casket is open and people are passing by. Some are crying and some touch the person in the casket or place a flower and move away. You are now approaching the casket. You are stunned and start shaking when you see that the person in the casket is you! This is your own funeral.

You wonder, *what happened?* At work a few days before your luck ran out. Due to your failure to follow a company safety policy you did not communicate with an operator of an excavator and stepped into a crush point thinking the excavator was going to swing opposite of what it actually did. The operator did not know you were there and you were killed instantly that day as you were crushed between the excavator's counter weight and concrete wall.

You had been warned on two previous occasions to never move around any equipment or vehicle without the operator or driver knowing that you are there or what your intention is. Tragically, your senseless death makes you a statistic where you join the thousands of people who are killed on the job each year.

You are just one of the vast majority of these fatalities that are due to unsafe behavior on the part of individuals. It was your own reckless action that placed you in the casket before you. And there is no one to blame but yourself.

The negative ripple effect of your unsafe behavior is many-fold. The operator of the excavator that killed you walked off the job so stricken with grief and panic that he won't work as an equipment operator anymore. He can't sleep; he can't work and now he and his family suffer the loss of a good livelihood. Your pregnant wife lost the baby you both were so excited about immediately after being informed of your death. Your parents and sisters are at a loss and asking why you? Well you know the answer.

You thought, *it can't happen to me* or *I'm invincible and smart enough. Ah, but it did!!* Now, if you could un-ring this tragic bell or wind back the clock of time to the moment before you made your reckless decision, what would you do differently? The fact is choices have consequences! It's a simple question. The decision is yours . . .

It is our hope that you have a seminal safety moment right this minute and commit to never compromise the safety of yourself or anyone else. Let this be a truly pivotal time in your life and one that you never forget. This is something which is within your power

to do. Step back from the grave and go on to live a productive life wherein you lead by example and exude safety passion that inspires others to work safe as well.

The challenge that our book on safety and risk has faced head-on is that all “accidents” are preventable. You are not a statistic yet and I pray that you will never be one. It’s your choice. No one can hold a gun to your head, and you shouldn’t either, with the intent of forcing you to work safe. You must have the right attitude, moral integrity, and desire to work safe. The power rests with you day in and day out. May you live a long and productive life and know that you contributed to workplace safety.

Remember, safety perfection is the only acceptable option for the writers of this book. What is safety perfection? That’s easy. Everyone goes home safe each and every day.

For more answers and insight, I invite you to look at our book, *Safety Under Construction—A Quest for Safety Perfection Utilizing Inventive Thinking* where we discuss in depth the psychological aspects of safety that include how we are affected mentally, emotionally and physically. It is a must-read for individuals and anyone who wants to dramatically improve the Culture of Safety within your organization and make great strides for safety success.

Go to: <http://www.SafetyUnderConstruction.com> in order to obtain a great sense of this newly published book on safety and risk. There you will see a representative preview and reviews of a book that needs to be read, taken to heart and shared. Lives depend on it.

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