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September 2004

**SIP TIP: JUST ASK!.....YOU MAY BE SURPRISED AT THE ANSWER**

Here is a conversation overhead at a project site a few months ago:

**Safety Director:** "Excuse me. Can I ask you a question?"

**Worker:** "What?"

**Safety Director:** (Louder) "Can I ask you a question?"

**Worker:** "Oh, sure. Sorry. This Turbo-Tip (brazing torch tip) has made me go deaf over the years.

**Safety Director:** "Actually, that was what I was going to ask you about. Why aren't you wearing hearing protection?"

**Worker:** "Oh, my Employer won't give me any."

**Safety Director:** "No disrespect, but I find that hard to believe. There are many different styles that are very inexpensive. Did they actually say they wouldn't give you any?"

**Worker:** "Well, I didn't really ask. But I know how they are....."

As it turned out, when the Foreman of the project site was relayed this story, the foreman turned, pointed to a shelf 10 feet away, and stated, "What is he talking about. I have them sitting right there!"



The scenario above is a true story. And it is one that is probably repeated often in all lines of work. It happens for a few reasons, and can be minimized by adhering to the following:

- ✓ **Don't assume anything!!** Just because of a negative response a few years ago, ask again. It's a new day in safety: products cost less \$, are more available, and people are starting to realize the savings in safety.
- ✓ **If it is not safe, don't do it!!** No employer wants their workforce to get hurt, but it is possible the severity of the task hasn't been adequately relayed to the Employer.
- ✓ **Seek Help from the Foreman or Steward:** The foreman or steward on the project may be your best ally in changing a safety culture. Get the foreman's or steward's backing, and you're halfway to resolution.
- ✓ **Seek help from other safety professionals before raising the red flag:** Perhaps the safety issue you face isn't as bad as it seems. Solicit input from safety directors that you know. Perhaps there is a solution to the problem that is acceptable to all parties.

**REMINDER: THE DAYS OF ACCEPTING ANYTHING LESS THAN YOU GOING HOME IN THE SAME PHYSICAL CONDITION THAT YOU STARTED YOUR DAY ARE OVER.**