

June 2019

Dear Auto RETRO Members;

June is [National Safety Month](#) by the National Safety Council. Everyone in an organization can get actively involved in risk reduction efforts through hazard identification and reporting. A successful safety program depends on spotting hazards early, evaluating the risk and removing or controlling hazards before they can do harm. If left unnoticed, hazards that produce no injury today can lead to a serious injury in the future.

First topic is: **Your Safety Culture** - The culture of the organization sets the tone for everything in the safety arena. In a positive safety culture, everything you do about safety is important. You may have heard the slogan “everyone goes home safe everyday”. You may have another version, but the general theme is getting everyone to think safety and be safe in the work environment.

How do you get employees to wear their safety ‘hat’ all the time? One way is to allow employees to participate by management sending a clear message that “we want and need your help”. Urge employees’ creativity and innovative solutions to solve hazards or processes that improve safety and increase productivity. The rule is not there just to have a rule, it is there because someone got hurt or killed as a result of that incident. When you think of safety as a ‘team sport’ you will begin to think of safety as a culture and that culture will shape the performance of the team.

RS SafetyTV has a section on ways to create [Safety Culture](#) in your workplace.

The second item is: **Box Knife Use**- Lately I have been seeing many claims where box knives have been the culprit. Many workers use utility knives to cut strapping, puncture shrink-wrap and open packaging. But one wrong move and these retractable blades can do serious harm. In fact, nearly 40 percent of all injuries attributed to manual workshop tools in the United States involve knives with retractable blades.

To learn more go to [RS Safety Library](#) Utility Knife Safety section. Another option is to take the **SAFEME box knife lesson** and have the employee print or email the passing certificate to you.

Finally – **Handling Brakes and Clutches**. Although it has been many years since asbestos was last used in brakes and clutches, Labor and Industries still considers them as if they contain asbestos. If you do brake/clutch work, your Accident Prevention Program needs to contain a section about how your employees are to be properly trained to handle these items. I would suggest that you add this:

Working with Brakes/Clutches

To control the dust that often accompanies working on brakes and clutches, we will use the 'Wet Method' process:

- Use the low-pressure water spray to wet the brakes and clutch, which can then be wiped with a cloth.
- Use pre-ground, ready-to-install parts whenever possible.
- The use of dry brushing during the wet method operations is prohibited.
- If drilling, cutting or other methods that can disturb the dust are required, use low-speed settings.
- Remove work clothes before going home and bagging them to be laundered separately.

Another option would be to vacuum with a HEPA grade filter.

The [RS Safety Library – Auto Group](#) has more information on this topic or you can contact me for help in updating your Accident Prevention Plan.

Thinking safety for you,

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