

October 2022

Dear RETRO Members:

Are you ready to **Shake Out**? October 20th marks earthquake preparedness day with the [Great Washington Shake Out](#). This is a statewide opportunity to refresh your team's knowledge of how to stay safe during an earthquake. The Shake Out aims to encourage businesses to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies. It is also an annual reminder to secure your workspaces to minimize potential earthquake-related damage and injuries. Use [these resources](#) to organize a Shake Out event at your business.



[Last month](#), we discussed two of the three elements of **motivation**, one of the core elements of a successful, resilient **safety system: communication and relationship**. This month, we're going to explain **accountability**.

Accountability is a structure of rewards and expectations. Instead of rewarding zero accidents, design a *relatable* and *progressive* structure to incentivize desirable behaviors. Examples include rewarding the reporting of *near misses* or participating in safety committee meetings.

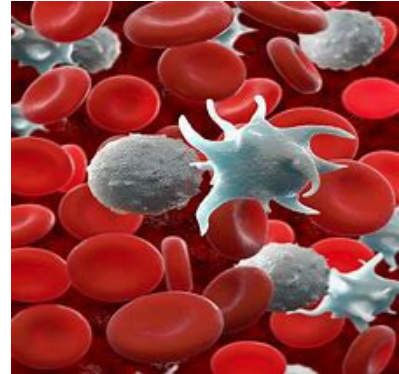
Please refer to [this article](#) for practical examples of implementing a relatable and progressive Safety Accountability structure.

An important tip is that motivating safety behaviors doesn't have to come from leaders alone. It *can also* come from individual co-workers.

When employees show care and concern for one another's safety, it creates a culture that motivates their peers to follow through with safety compliance.

We call this “*the buddy principle.*” — When widely practiced, this principle can help prevent injuries from happening to those workers who aren’t as discerning of potential risk or may not pay attention to their surroundings.

Blood Borne Pathogens – You may think that only hospital workers or EMTs are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens, but other environments can as well. Work injuries and puncture wound hazards are opportunities for contact. These can come from garment tag guns or performing regular housekeeping chores. It is essential to remain observant and careful when exposed to blood or other bodily fluids in the workplace. Lack of caution is how Hepatitis often spreads.



If **needles are found in restrooms** or around the perimeter of the store, the rule from [WAC 296-823-13005 states](#) you must provide bloodborne pathogen training to exposed employees, make hepatitis B vaccines available to all employees, and ensure a **sharps box** is installed in every restroom to help protect your employees and customers.

Related resources:

- RS webinar on [“A Guide to Needles in a Retail Environment.”](#)
- For safety meeting presentation information, click [here](#).
- [RS SafetyTV](#) has a video on this subject.
- Other helpful information from the Center for Disease Control is available [here](#).

Portable fire Extinguishers are the first line of defense to put fires under control at their start. Even if your company has automatic sprinklers or other means of fire protection, it is critical to ensure your portable fire extinguishers have regular inspections and a recharging program to ensure that they are fully operational. Also, ensure the capacity is adequate for the size of your operation and that your employees know how to use them.



The links below will provide basic fire extinguisher operation, explaining the PASS method of putting out a small fire:

- [RS SafetyTV](#) has videos on how to use and the [Safety Library](#) has additional information for your safety meeting.
- The **SAFEME** app has a module on [Fire Extinguisher](#) that makes a great refresher course!

Think safe. Act safe. Be safe.

Rick Means

Director of Safety & Education
Retail Association Services Inc.
rmeans@waretailaservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 118

Chris Silver

Member Services & Data Coordinator
Retail Association Services Inc.
csilver@waretailaservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 122