

Give us your ideas

We Americans take pride in being the first to land on the moon. Neil Armstrong's historic quote, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," was uttered as he placed his foot on the moon for the very first time.

This momentous step would not have been possible without the cooperation of thousands of people.

All of the technicians, scientists, mechanics and security guards worked together to accomplish a singular goal. The safety of our very first astronauts was paramount and every single person did his or her part to ensure that the mission was accomplished.

Although our program here is not as lofty as the NASA space program, **each of us plays a part as integral as any of the technicians at NASA**. If a single one of us fails to do our part to ensure that safety remains at the forefront, then an accident becomes more likely. People who depend on you — your family, your friends and your coworkers — rely on you to be safe and remain able-bodied.

Teamwork is as vital for us as it was for the Apollo spaceships. Each of us has a job to do and we must be vigilant.

Part of teamwork is sharing ideas and concerns.

If workers feel secure in sharing their concerns or ideas, chances are that they may prevent an accident from happening.

Share with me any ideas about how we can make things safer. Even if the ideas seem small, it could potentially have a large safety impact. Your idea may prevent a catastrophic or even fatal accident. At the end of the day, **our goal is to be able to walk home with no injuries at all.**

If you are one of our long-term employees, chances are that you have seen someone take a shortcut. You know the way things should be done, and you see when they are not. **Your experience is a vital part of our safety program**, since you are keenly aware of daily conditions.

As you survey your work area, or even the entire plant, do you see a safety hazard? Are there loose railings, floors slick with oil, broken electric tools, badly-lit areas, unmarked flammable containers, or extension cords strung everywhere? **Report the unsafe condition to your supervisor.**

If you are a newer employee, chances are that you see things with fresh eyes. This means that you could spot a problem while our veteran employees may not recognize it — they may have been working with a situation for so long that it has become normal. An extension cord may have been in place long enough that most people just walk around it. But it is still unsafe and needs to be reported.

It takes all of us to remain safe. Just as all of the thousands worked together to ensure the safety of our first astronauts, **we must work together to ensure the safety of our coworkers and ourselves.** ■

Keep your thoughts on safety and report any problems and especially great ideas, to your supervisor.

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