

"Hurry Up" Can Hurt

YOURSAFETY@IRP TOOLBOX DISCUSSION

In general, speed belongs on the race track, not in the workplace. Almost everyone has been guilty of rushing through a job or task at work. Unfortunately we often forget, until it's too late, that "hurry up can hurt".

In just about every instance, hurrying on the job does not lead to an increase in productivity. Instead it often creates an unsafe environment which increases the chance of injury to you and others around you, mistakes or mishaps occurring, and/or poor quality workmanship.

Have you been guilty of any of the following?

- Didn't wear safety glasses because the job would only take a few minutes;
- Used the wrong tool because the proper one was too far away, for example, a wrench instead of a hammer because your hammer was in your toolbox;
- Didn't use proper lockout procedures because it takes too much time;
- Took a short cut between machinery, or stockpiles of materials;
- Gave the fork lift truck just a little more "pedal" so you could finish the job quicker;
- Removed a guard to repair your machine, or for a special run;
- Didn't unplug a power tool before making adjustments because you would only have to plug it in again;
- Climbed up on plant or material to conduct a task instead of using a ladder, EWP etc.

The list is endless. Do they sound familiar? Maybe all too familiar? It's easy to become complacent because sometimes when you hurry or take short cuts, nothing bad happens and other times your actions may result in a "near miss/hit", but eventually a serious injury will occur. It's only a matter of time.

Remember: Don't rush, plan the task!

Is it really worth your eyesight, your limbs or even your life JUST to save those few minutes? When hurrying on the job, you don't speed up the work; you just speed up your chances of being involved in an accident/incident.



Take 5 Before You Start and Avoid the Hurt

Am I trained & competent to undertake this task	Y/N
My work area is clean, tidy and it has adequate lighting	Y/N
There is safe access and egress to the work area	Y/N
I have appropriate controls in place to perform this task safely and efficiently	Y/N
My controls are appropriate to protect others around me	Y/N
I understand and know what assistance I may need to lift materials	Y/N
My equipment/tools are in good condition and correct for the task	Y/N
My PPE is appropriate, in good condition and correct for the task	Y/N

If you answer "NO" to any of the above questions you must raise the issue with your supervisor and find a way to proceed with the job/task safely.

Talk to your site supervisor and your IRP consultant about any safety concerns you have before it's too late! IRP – 9477 7999

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