

## IS CONSEQUENTIAL THINKING “JOB ONE” IN REDUCING WORK-RELATED INJURIES?

After all the equipment innovations, protocols and the intentions of informed safety programs, millions of work-related injuries still occur year after year. Coincidentally over the years, I’ve given special attention to hundreds of pages and examples of safety related study materials, tools, methods and topics most relatable to our lines of work. Turns out the outcome of “all that” has naturally led to some conclusions about what a foundational standard should be for an effective industry-specific injury reduction program.

One workable observation shows that some people seem predisposed to suffer repeated injuries, while some have parallel careers with far fewer and less serious injuries, or even no injuries at all! All things being relatively equal, there must be an explanation as to how this can be. It seems that something basic transcends innovations, injury mechanics, and checklists of “do’s” and “don’ts” to skewer uniform results, not to infer that any approach to safety education doesn’t remain important.

It turns out that crucial “something”, resides with each worker’s relative ability to maintain an aware, vigilant, anticipatory, state of **consequential thinking** toward any environmental situation that involves potentially injurious activities or components, an ability that in the most excellent examples is simply an extension of its possessor’s waking state.

While the ability to achieve and maintain a state of **consequential thinking** may be a natural aptitude, it can also be acquired through practice and discipline. Regardless of how it’s come by, the ability for **consequential thinking** is clearly found to have a profound effect on how well all other safety initiatives transition into individual, statistically desirable results.

Let’s look more closely at how that can be: while it’s true that most workplace injuries are caused by human error, it is also the case, that over a spectrum of similarly tenured and experienced workers, some have comparatively few or no injuries, while others are far more prone.

In my own Local the notion that **consequential thinking** is the most reasonable explanation for accident free living is anecdotally reinforced by several uber safe workers who I have observed to be excellent “consequential thinkers” over decades. Small as the cited sample is, there is no doubt in my mind that **consequential thinking** plays a critical role in corresponding results. It’s also an anecdotal corollary that more accident-prone workers have lesser **consequential thinking** aptitude, verified in many cases by the situations wherein their injuries were incurred; e.g., A worker’s forearm was smashed when he reached through a road case stack to orient a castor wheel to the case below. Had a **consequential thinker** been present to witness, the intention might have fortunately been met with “Hey, I don’t think you want to do that”, followed by an instructive explanation “why”.

# SAFETY SP T

I believe the lack of **consequential thinking** contributes to more on-the-job recurring personal injury histories than any combination of other suspected factors.

So, what does **consequential thinking** look like? How can we develop it in ourselves and others?

An extreme example of **consequential thinking** in action manifests in baseball. Envision the mindset of shortstop as the pitcher winds up with the batter braced to swing. Not only must the player anticipate catching a hit ball, but he must also automatically pre-factor subsequent consequences before the fact as well.

How this sort of vigilance manifests among the most able in our own ranks amounts to an automatic, ongoing appraisal of workplace actions, consequences, and preventative corrections, all unconsciously computed within the instant: WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF, say, “I don’t always wear gloves or steel toe shoes ...” “If I push that stack of deck before checking that strap ...” “WHAT IF that tall, narrow based road case is top heavy... WHAT IF I step over that truss without checking the landing first...” “the workmate pushing the case ahead of me stops, can I control my own ...” “the guy pushing behind me is following too close...” “the load in a cage I am pushing shifts, are my fingers out of harm’s way.” Most of the processing is completed in an effortless—but conscious--instant before s/he lays a hand on the task!

The challenge in this exercise is remembering to consciously “ask” working situations for consequences and corrections, until **consequential thinking** is no longer an action to be thought about, but an instinctive, reactionary extension of who you are.

At work and every aspect of living as well, life through a lens of **consequential thinking** affords a more responsible, aware, present and safer environment for everyone’s benefit.

For Safety,

Ladd Anderson  
UTP Director of Risk Management

## Check out our new website features!

Our updated website recently went live! We have added several links to streamline the paperwork processes.

### What you will find:

- ✓ New hire paperwork (W4, I9, ID uploading)
- ✓ Direct deposit forms
- ✓ Change of address forms
- ✓ Accident check list for stewards
- ✓ Accident forms for supervisors, employees and witnesses
- ✓ There is a discount link for ordering steel toed shoes
- ✓ There is also a New Hire Safety Certification to be completed by all new hires.

# SAFETY SP T

## Protect You!

By reading through our list of accidents for the month of March you can see the problem areas of fingers and toes.

Those are important parts that you want to keep! Invest in your safety by purchasing proper protective equipment. Invest in your future!

The cost of purchasing gloves and steel toed shoes is much less than the pain and anguish of dealing with an injury otherwise.

## Tired of collecting new hire paperwork?

Below are the instructions for new hires to complete all UTP paperwork online.

I can also email you a full-page document in business card size that can be printed and given to each new hire.



### UTP Productions

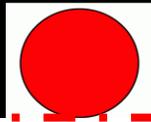
#### New Hire instructions

Each new hire will need to go to: [Utpproductions.com](http://Utpproductions.com) to complete the proper paperwork prior to working for UTP. In order to receive your first check; please click on forms and reports. You MUST fill out in their entirety the W4, I9, New Hire Safety and upload copies of your ID's for the I9 form. Direct deposit is available as well.

## A Tale of our accidents

The following is a list of incidents and accidents that have occurred since our last newsletter.

# SAFETY SPOT



**Texas: Bass PAC** - While taking one wheeled case off the top of another he didn't move his hand and that top box crushed his hand causing a fractured finger.

**Florida: Ponte Verde** - While moving a heavy case he strained his back.

**Dr. Phillips** - While carrying a light fixture with another employee she twisted her ankle and fell straining her left ankle.

**Marco Island Marriott** - While moving a sandbag cart with two other employees he was guiding from the front and stopped to see where he was going, and the other two kept pushing and it caused a tuft fracture of the big toe and loss of the nail.

**Global Spectrum** - He was carrying a couch with another employee that tripped and he tried to compensate, and he hurt his wrist.

**Georgia: GSU** - While moving in the dark he had a platform fall on top of his shin causing bone contusions.

**Utah: Mtn America** - While pulling up carpet he somehow managed to obtain a facial laceration.

**Eccles** - While loading counterweights he dropped one and it crushed his pinky and split it open.

**SPCC** - While hanging signage he strained his wrist.

**Oklahoma: Civic Center** - While loading counter weights he did not move his thumb out of the way, and it smashed it causing a deep laceration.