

FOCUS



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME

WEEK
FIRST
WEEK
SAFETY
FIRST
WEEK
SAFETY
FIRST
WEEK

Have you ever thought about where safety started? Because when you understand where safety started, it puts an entirely new meaning to what, “Safety starts with me” means to **YOU**.

It actually dates back to around 1754 BC with the Code of Hammurabi; a set of 282 laws that governed the ancient Babylonian Empire. In it were four construction safety laws relating to penalties to builders for fatalities that occurred as a result of collapsing homes and buildings. The consensus was—blame the worker.



The next real advancement in safety didn't occur until 1906 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; where the local jobs were steel workers, coal miners and factory workers. There were so many fatalities in this county that they began recording. From fiscal year 1906 to 1907, there were 526 worker fatalities.



The widows of those workers took that “Death Calendar” to the US government and Workers’ Compensation was created, known as the Federal Employers Liability Act. Disaster after disaster continued, felt by the workers, their families, the companies and the community.

Pattern of Loss

- In 1911, 146 people died in the New York Triangle Shirt Factory Fire.
- During the construction of the Hoover Dam that began in 1931, 112 fatalities were recorded.
- In 1944, gas vapors leaked from an East Ohio Gas Company storage container, settled in the sewer and exploded- destroying 79 homes and 2 factories, leaving 700 members of the community homeless and killing 131 people.
- In 1947, the SS Grandcamp in Texas City exploded, killing 581 workers and civilians.

This pattern of loss continued until December 29, 1970, when the US government said enough is enough and OSHA was created. Shortly after that in 1971, Canada created the Canada Federal Labor Codes. In 1974, the United Kingdom created their Health and Safety at Work Act. From there, safety spread into Europe, New Zealand, Australia and around the world.

Now You Know!

So now you know where safety started. It didn't start with the workers; it started with the widows. That is why we need to be proactive when it comes to safety. It's not enough to do something about the hazards because they are a part of our job. We have to want to do something about the hazards. And when we want to do something about the hazards, it's at THAT moment that safety starts with **you**.

Safety starts with each of us every single day so that our loved ones don't have to champion new laws in our memory. It's up to us to do our part so that we go home safely every day to those who love us. It's up to **us**.

KEEP
SAFETY
FIRST
WEEK

