

# 3 Tips for Safety Stewards

It's National Safety Month and we're calling all Stewards of Safety. What can you do – as an individual leader – to steward safety and go from safety *compliance* to safety *culture*? Safety experts weigh in.

#1

## Model by Example



72% of people who drive as part or all of their job **feel pressured to respond** to work communications while driving. How can you influence this dynamic? One of our safety experts **suggested the 5 minute rule**: “We insist that our managers coach their drivers. Keep conversations to less than 5 minutes. When our managers reach out to our drivers, we want them first to acknowledge, are you driving?” A simple habit to ask, “Are you driving?” puts employees’ safety first and infuses safety culture – instead of pressure – from the top down.

#2

## Create a Safe Space to Bring Concerns



Open communication may seem like a no brainer, but get this: Only 39% of employees would want to meet with management about safety concerns. Fran Sehn, Risk and Safety Consultant of 30 years, recommends that you actively **welcome employees to share safety concerns**. Provide a safe and easy way to report issues, and when someone comes forward, take extra time for appreciation, such as complimenting the person.

#3

## Get More Voices at the Table



Give employees a stake in safety culture. Include them across your safety programs to encourage a sense of ownership in creating and maintaining safety standards. In the **Employee Driven Safety** webinar, guest Fran Sehn recommends that safety committees represent a range of departments and include 50% non-upper management employees. Committees should share agendas and minutes with all employees for transparency, and use evaluation tools, like a risk assessment matrix, during regular meetings to collect feedback on the matrix from the diverse group. If an incident occurs, involve employees in cause determination, future training, and problem solving.

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