

The Advantage of Safety Warning Notices

An interview with Brad Bucher of Atlanta

CF: *How many years have you been with AJ?*

BB: I have been with AJ for more than 13 years. I worked for other companies in between.

CF: *Do other companies where you've worked have this type of procedure?*

BB: I have not worked for any other company that has used this procedure. If any warnings needed to be made, they would be verbal. No other company is as safety conscious as AJ.

CF: *The Safety Warning Notices have been in place for ten years now. Do you use them more or less?*

BB: Less. Our people are familiar with our policies now. Also, we remind them about safety in our morning huddles. I think this really helps. Also, putting new workers with seasoned workers helps.

CF: *What type of warning do you write the most?*

BB: In the beginning, it was for glasses and gloves. Now that those have become more of a habit, it's Fall Protection. That's something I really focus on.

CF: *Any backlash from workers for writing a warning?*

BB: Never. When I write a warning, I explain to the worker that they need to be more safety conscious.



BRAD BUCHER

CF: *Do your superintendent/management support you when you write a warning?*

BB: Yes. Management is aware of the warnings. If there is a severe warning, the worker will be brought in front of management.

CF: *Has a worker violated one of our policies so severely that there was enough cause for dismissal?*

BB: No. The most serious warning I've given was for a worker working outside of a lift that was two floors up.

CF: *Does it ever bother you when you have to write a warning for someone on your crew?*

BB: No. Even though I am friends with some of the workers, I am doing my job and making sure that they are safe.

CF: *Does writing a warning get the result you want?*

BB: Absolutely!

CF: *Do you find that workers assigned to your jobs comply with our policies because they know you will enforce them?*

BB: Yes. I explain it so they understand it is for their safety.

CF: *Ever received positive feedback from a cited employee?*

BB: Well, no. No one has outright given me feedback. But I find that they will not repeat the violation of that policy again.

CF: *Any advice for foremen who don't write warnings?*

BB: They should do it. I cannot believe that every job is perfect. I also think it is important to mention safety every day in the morning huddle. It's a constant reminder to be safety conscious.