Five Reasons to Watch Out for Each Other's Safety

1. When you keep an eye on other people's safety, your own safety awareness improves. We see hazards that other people don't notice, making for a much safer working environment.

2. Even the safest of workers can get distracted. Thinking about family, friends, vacation, hobbies, etc. can distract someone from safe working practices. On a nice day, for example, a coworker may daydream about spending the day at the beach or going golfing. Just like that, he's distracted from his work and might risk an injury. Watching out for your coworkers' safety can help prevent problems that could arise from distraction.

3. We're all at risk of occasional cognitive failure. When you are staring right at your keys but still can't find them, or for a split second don't notice a car speeding along toward you on the road, you are experiencing cognitive failure. If this happens during a high-risk job, the consequences can be devastating. No one is absolutely perfect and our concentration efforts can fail us at times. Cognitive failure can set the best worker up for an opportunity to be injured.

4. You'll never have to regret that you could have said something but didn't. Imagine if you knew of a safety concern and didn't say something and a person got hurt, this could be on your mind for a very long time, if not the rest of your life. By speaking up if you see something potentially dangerous, you'll never have the nightmare of knowing you had the power to help change the outcome but failed to do so.

5. It's just the right thing to do. At times, a coworker may not praise you for pointing out a safety risk– you might even be met with resistance– but it's simply the right thing to do. You can't argue with doing the right thing.

Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."