



I'm sorry I almost killed you

"I absolutely loved your talk, and by the way, I'm sorry I almost killed you this morning!" she chuckled as she shook my hand.

I consider myself to have a good sense of humor not only looking for lessons in experiences but humor as well. Humor was lost on me at that exact moment when meeting and recognizing the face of this young woman. I replied, "Oh. That was you?" She returned with a smile, "It's a good thing you were paying attention." "I suppose it was, as it didn't appear you were," left my mouth unfiltered. She did eventually apologize and I believe it was sincere. We had a brief conversation about the topic I spoke on and she was on her way.

Earlier that morning, an hour before my scheduled keynote presentation at a private event, I was eager for what I was about to accomplish. As I was running the presentation through my mind deciding on my opening, I removed my laptop bag from the reverse-parked rental car. While walking to the front of the vehicle parked in the middle of the open parking lot — call it intuition, divine intervention, behavioral line of fire/eyes on

path training, a gut instinct or luck — something told me to stop.

They say your life will flash before your eyes. It didn't, but a white Toyota 4Runner did. Thankfully I stopped because I almost didn't see her and, as she later admitted, she didn't see me. She stated she had pulled into the lane looking for a space. As it dead ended she reversed quicker than she should have, and only after having fully passing me, saw me standing adjacent to her front right passenger tire. I saw her too, including the startled "where did you come from?" look.

When an event such as this occurs, it is imperative lessons are captured that not only identify what led up to the event but what kept it at an almost injury as well. Thankfully, I kept my eyes focused in the direction I was walking. Thankfully, I stopped and looked prior to entering into what most wouldn't consider being a high-speed traffic area. Thankfully, I trusted my gut instinct that told me: wait a second.

Throughout the developed world government regulations require leaders to create a safe working environment. This is not only what should legally occur before anything

else in safety, it is also the right thing to do. To stop here is not only limited thinking in safety; it will become career limiting as well. Yes, of course, provide a safe place to work but if you do not strive to help employees make safe (risk-free or risk-reducing) decisions at work and away, shame on you.

Safety is more than what you create for someone; it is also what you do to shape their thought processes. I believe helping shape a person's thinking is more effective than any safety program. I could have easily been struck by the nice lady driving the 4Runner. Had I been struck, there are no validated prediction models available that can tell me what severity I would have suffered. I easily would have never seen my wife and three daughters again. I wouldn't be sharing these thoughts with you now but I am. I trusted my gut. I listened to the voice that influenced me to act.

We are always at risk. The difference lies with those who recognize this and remain aware. This is not innate, it is learned. As a leader, you are not just responsible for the work environment; you are responsible for helping employees learn proactively.

Thankfully, I too had a great leader — one who influenced me to keep myself safe when he wasn't there to intervene, and before a 4Runner passed before my eyes one summer morning in 2012.

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THE SAFETY CORP ADVENTURES

WHEN WE LAST LEFT OUR HEROES, THE OSHA INSPECTOR HAD JUST BEGUN HIS TOUR OF THE REFINERY WITH ACME'S SAFETY DIRECTOR, JANICE JERGENSEN...AKA, THE ENFORCER. UNBEKNOWNST TO HER, A TRAP OF SAFETY INFRACTIONS HAD BEEN SET FOR THE OSHA INSPECTOR TO CATCH. THIS HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF BIG TROUBLE FOR ACME AND ITS DILIGENT SAFETY-T-CORP.

OH NO! A LOCKOUT VIOLATION RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE!

WHO! HEAD HURTS... LIKE A THOUSAND THOUGHTS ARE TRYING TO SURFACE.

WHAT?! I CAN'T READ JANICE'S MIND. LIKE I'M BEING BLOCKED! BUT HOW?

I'LL TRY MY POWER ON THE INSPECTOR.

DISTRACTOR DIVERTS HIS TELEPATHY TO THE OSHA INSPECTOR AND SUDDENLY...

DID I TELL YOU I'M A BOWLER?

THERE'S A LEAGUE GAME TONIGHT. WE'RE IN FIRST IF WE WIN.

MY WIFE AND I ALSO RUN...HELPS REDUCE STRESS.

THIS HAPPENED TO BOB AND KATIE.

*ISSUE 8 OF THE GCA

I'LL CONTACT BICSTER WITH THE GLASSES HE GAVE ME.

*ISSUE 7 OF THE GCA

ENFORCER TO BICSTER...

COME IN, BICSTER.

HEY, ENFORCER'S RADIOING ME.

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD...

BICSTER HERE. OVER.

I'M HERE WITH THE OSHA INSPECTOR.

HE SAW A LOCKOUT VIOLATION, BECAME DISTRACTED, AND WALKED OFF...

...RAMBLING ON ABOUT BOWLING AND RUNNING.

...WHAT'S SHE SAYING?

SPLIT UP AND...

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ODD BEHAVIOR, SAFE-T-MAN.

IN THE MEANTIME...

I'LL CATCH UP WITH THE OSHA INSPECTOR AND TRY TO SNAP HIM OUT OF HIS TRANCE.

ASICS ARE GREAT RUNNING SHOES.

HEY, IS THAT A FALL PREVENTION VIOLATION?

DO YOU RUN? WHAT KIND OF SHOES DO YOU WEAR?

B-SAFE COMICS HAS INTRODUCED THREE SAFETY VILLAINS. HOW DO THEY RELATE TO THE WORKPLACE AND HOW DO THEY CAUSE INJURIES? LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT OUR FIRST DEVIOUS INJURY POTENTIAL, THE DISTRACTER. LET'S FACE IT, WHEN WE'RE AT WORK IT'S EASY FOR OUR MIND TO WANDER... SCHOOL, THE HEAT, SICK KIDS, ETC. THAT'S WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO KEEP OUR MIND ON THE JOB OR PAY ATTENTION TO OUR SURROUNDINGS WHILE WE'RE WALKING AROUND. DON'T LET LITTLE DISTRACTIONS CAUSE BIG INJURIES.

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