



www.thinkandbesafe.com

47. Pay attention to warning signs. They are there for a reason.

I was speaking to a group of safety professionals at a conference. Since it was early December, I talked about the number of people who are injured every year after falling from ladders while putting up their Christmas lights. After my talk, two safety professionals came up and quietly told me how they both had become injured in the same way. One of them admitted he had actually been standing on the THIS IS NOT A STEP warning (how many times have you done this?). When he lost his balance and fell, he was knocked unconscious. He would have frozen to death if the neighbor's kid hadn't gone home and asked his mother why Mr. Smith was sleeping on the sidewalk. The second safety professional had shattered his knee and was off work for four months.

We see warning signs wherever we go – stop signs warn us to stop, takeout coffee cups warn us the coffee is hot, gasoline containers warn us that gasoline is flammable, and every electrical device known to man warns us we could be electrocuted if we don't use it properly.

I think some of the warnings are to help prevent lawsuits, but most are there for even better reasons. They are warning you of what could happen, and what has happened to other people. If you see warning labels on chemical containers, machinery, tools, or any recreational piece of equipment, pay attention. Remember, these warnings are there for a reason. People just as intelligent as you have been injured doing exactly what you plan on doing with that chemical or piece of equipment.

Pay attention to warning signs!



www.thinkandbesafe.com

THINK & BE SAFE AT ALL TIMES!