



## ***Recognizing Hazards – The little things***

Most of us are pretty good at recognizing big hazards. The dock restraint that won't engage, attachment on a lift truck not functioning properly. Guards that need to be in place before operating equipment.

There is a saying "*It's the little things that count.*"

There are many small things that influence our lives, ignoring them can have serious consequences – particularly when it comes to safety. We have been trained to watch out for the big hazards that could harm us, but the little ones can have serious consequences too!

The types of hazards that fall in this category might be some of the following, although there are many others.

- Drop of oil from a lift truck on the floor, small and ignored but may cause a slip.
- Piece of wood on the floor that a lift truck can run over or a person twist an ankle when stepped on
- Ladder placed in front of a door where someone may walk into a danger zone.
- Dock light bulb burnt out
- Tool or item not put back in proper location

All of these have the potential for incident/injury if they are ignored. Even though they are "minor" items they can have "major" effects.

Intentions of people are usually not the issue. Someone views a hazard and means to report it to maintenance but gets called to another task or because of being busy forgets to carry out reporting the item they noted.

It is important to follow through on these good intentions, since are just the sort of "**little things**" that can result in a serious injury to us or others.

This also applies to minor injuries left untreated "**little things**" that can cause big trouble if ignored. "Just a scratch" can become infected; a speck of dust in the eye can scratch the cornea and cause severe eye damage if not attended to. Be sure to report even seemingly minor injuries and get appropriate first aid treatment.

Little things do count and if we take the time to pay attention to all the potential hazards around us we can prevent serious incidents from happening to ourselves or those we work with.