

I will return home safely today as well. I want to protect that common sense.

--An interview with Ogasawara san and Akiyama san from the Safety and Health Management Department



JATCO has been certified as a "Health and Productivity Management Excellent Corporation (White 500)" for seven consecutive years.

Health promotion initiatives such as food education events and the opening of an in-house gym have become a familiar presence for employees.

On the other hand, what kind of activities are being carried out regarding safety?

This time, we spoke with Director Ogasawara and Manager Akiyama of the Safety and Health Management Department about their basic approach to safety and their daily efforts.

"Safety" is something that is taken for granted

Ogasawara san:

"We are a manufacturing company. We work in a site with many production facilities and are constantly exposed to danger. Our mission as the Safety and Health Management Department is to create an environment where employees do not get injured or cause injuries to others."



Ogasawara-san, General Manager of the Safety and Health Management Department, always has a cheerful smile, but when he talks about safety, he has a professional look on his face.

Akiyama san:

"Safety is something that employees can take for granted. Being able to come to work every day in good spirits and return home healthy and injury-free - this "basic" situation is guaranteed, and that is safety."



Akiyama san, Manager of the Safety and Health Management Department, works with the belief that safety is something that should be maintained as a matter of course.

Three pillars of safety activities

JATCO's company-wide safety policy is based on the following three pillars:

① Developing safe people (safety-minded education)

At the Safety Dojo, you can actually experience how dangerous unsafe behavior can be.

We also provide opportunities for each employee to think about safety, such as safety training when they join the company, monthly traffic KY (hazard prediction) activities, awareness-raising activities during National Safety Week in July, and soliciting safety slogans.

"Safety is not something that comes from knowledge, but from the heart. That is why we repeatedly provide safety training that appeals to the heart."

One of the safety and health section chiefs, Section Chief Hirano, gave us a tour of the Safety Dojo, which was renovated this year.

The purpose of the Safety Dojo is to learn the fear by actually "experiencing" danger and to think about "why it happened."

There are more than 10 danger simulation facilities set up within the facility, and

only 10 specially trained trainers are allowed to act as explainers.

In order to properly "scare" and "make people think," the level of the teacher is also important.

When I actually experienced it, I found myself panicking and realized firsthand how dangerous this behavior is.

I learned that there are hidden dangers in tools that are used by people outside the manufacturing field, such as carts and stepladders, and I was able to see this as something that concerns me as well.

For example, don't use your smartphone while walking, don't walk with your hands in your pockets, and hold onto the handrail when walking up stairs - even small actions like these are the first step towards safety that you can take starting today.



Safety declaration ceremony

② Realization of safe equipment and work methods

We use risk assessment to identify potential dangers in the workplace and respond by prioritizing them.

We have further strengthened our existing near miss activities and have created a system called "Concerned Near Miss Activities" to expand the scope of concern to include situations that may not reach the level of a near miss but may still pose a potential danger, thereby preventing danger from occurring in the bud.

"Of course, it's important for superiors to understand and respond to safety issues, but the people who know the site best are the people who actually work there. We are fostering a culture where employees can take the initiative to identify and improve risks."

3) Never let the same disaster happen again

We regularly remind employees of accidents that have occurred at JATCO in the

past and strive to prevent recurrence.

Although the images are blurred, we hope that by showing images of actual disaster sites and injuries, people will be able to relate to the disaster.

"Safety is not something that is built once and then forgotten. Humans are forgetful creatures. That's why it's important to remember it over and over again."

Although these three pillars may seem independent, they are in fact all connected. A safety culture unique to JATCO is created when "safe people" support "safe equipment and work" and "lessons learned from the past" are not forgotten and are put to good use.

Safety is not something that is achieved through special activities, but through the "ordinary actions" that are accumulated in the course of daily work.

Safety leaders supporting the workplace

In the manufacturing division, a "Safety and Health Section Chief" is assigned to each department.

Because safety is a top priority, personnel with extensive on-site experience are appointed to lead daily safety activities. Because we know the site, we can keep an eye out for even the smallest dangers. In recent years, there has been a growing trend to allow employees to gain experience as safety and health section chiefs as part of the development of next-generation leaders.

"Board members are also involved in selecting the safety and health chief. That is how much safety is at the core of our company."

"So that no one will be sad"

At the heart of our safety activities is the desire to "protect the lives of each and every employee."

Ogasawara san:

"Our job is to ensure that no one, including family members, colleagues, or friends, is sad about your injury. Safety cannot be maintained by one person alone. This is only possible with the understanding and cooperation of all our employees."

Akiyama:

"The Safety and Health Management Department is a department that has all administrative, judicial and legislative functions. There are times when I have to say

harsh things, but I believe it is important to be close to the people on the ground and find solutions together. The most rewarding moment is when someone on the site says "thank you."

Ogasawara san:

"Safety is the most basic of basics. Humans are creatures of habit, but safety is something we should never get used to.

Through our daily awareness-raising activities, we hope that people will take the time, even if only for a short time, to think about what their own safety means to them."

To protect the everyday "ordinary"

Maintaining safety is not just an issue for manufacturing sites. There are many common dangers that lurk around us, such as not using the handrail when going up or down stairs, tripping over a step, cutting your hand on office supplies, using your smartphone while walking, or walking with your hands in your pockets. Decreased athletic performance can also lead to injuries. Promoting good health is the foundation of safety.

In our economic activities, we tend to prioritize cost and efficiency, but when a disaster occurs, there is a risk that production will have to be halted. That is why, because "basic safety" is firmly ensured every day, we can work with peace of mind. In order to maintain "safety as a matter of course," the cooperation of each and every employee is important. Everyone finishing the day safely - the accumulation of such efforts supports the future of the company.

Hirano san, one of the safety and health section chiefs, gave us a tour of the Safety Dojo, which was renovated this year.

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In order to properly "scare" and "make people think," the level of the teacher is also important.

When I tried it, I found myself panicking and realized firsthand how dangerous this behavior is.

I learned that there are hidden dangers in tools that are used by people outside the manufacturing site, such as carts and stepladders, and I was able to see this as

something that concerns me personally.



The renovated safety dojo



Pointing and calling experience machine



Experience the sharpness of cutting chips.



Experience walking on an oily floor.

Invisible efforts that care about the workplace

The unseen efforts of the Safety and Health Management Department continue to support JATCO's "norms" today.

Even during the interview, Ogasawara san and Akiyama san's cell phones were ringing nonstop. Even so, the two of them remain calm and deal with each issue one by one, never forgetting to be considerate. From their actions, we could clearly see the concern they have for their employees, which cannot be expressed in numbers or systems.

Let's also be conscious of safety in our daily lives and strive to be able to say "I'm home" in good spirits every day.



A specialized team to protect the safety and health of employees. Health and safety officers, industrial physicians, and public health nurses wear white uniforms that symbolize "trust," "cleanliness," and "safety," and support health and safety in the workplace every day.