



**Jim Persons**  
**jimpersons@safetypride.com**  
**707-889-0881**

## **The Ripple Effect of Safety**

When discussing injuries and the importance of working safely, we often discuss how an injury would affect an individual's immediate family or loved ones.

While this may be an effective method to provoke thought in an individual worker, the not-so-immediate effects of working unsafely need also to be discussed. There is often a far-reaching ripple effect of consequences from any incident that occurs, even if it does not result in injury.

### **Why You Should Focus on the Large Ripple:**

This idea of a larger ripple is something we try to pass on to the other employees on our jobsites.

Even if they do not enjoy working for the company as much as I do, they should have some type of feeling of obligation to complete their best work for the other employees in the company.

If someone is planning on quitting and decides they do not care anymore or are willing to take risks, they need to understand that there are hundreds of other employees and their families depending on the paycheck that comes from the company.

One simple action or decision that leads to a negative event can have far-reaching long-term consequences.

As an employee, we want to argue that you have an obligation to the other employees in that company to do your best work. Notice we did not say an obligation to the company.

While you can argue that one does indeed have an obligation to the company, it can be more easily brushed off than an obligation to the other employees in the company.

It is easy to think the owner or high level of management who represents "the company" does not care about the individual worker, thus making it easier to rationalize taking shortcuts or putting in little effort at work. In my opinion, it is more difficult to brush off the idea that an individual's lack of effort or unsafe work behavior is hurting their fellow employees in the company.

### **Summary:**

What kind of ripple effect will you have?

Is it pervasive in a good way? Let your work have a larger positive effect on your company.

Challenge those around you to have a positive effect that reaches far past the immediate jobsite, office, or branch they work in.