



"Signs"

Take a "Wet Paint" sign, for instance. You know very well that it's 10 to 1 the sign means what it says. But chances are 10 to 1 you'll have an overwhelming urge to walk up and stick your finger in it, just to see if the sign means what it says.

Well, a little paint isn't going to hurt your finger, and maybe that's an easy way to convince yourself that signs really are put up for a reason.

When you fail to read and heed traffic and other safety signs, you are risking more than a smeared finger. You are endangering your life and the lives of your fellow citizens. Whether you work in an office, a shop, or outdoors, you'll find signs posted to keep you safe and sound.

But remember that ALL IMPORTANT SIGNS ARE NOT ALWAYS WRITTEN, for example:

- Protruding nails are saying, "Pull me out or hammer me down."
- A hole in the floor gaps and yawns to be covered.
- A leaning pile of material beckons for someone to keep it from falling.
- Machine guards lying on the floor or in the way are telling someone to put them back in place.
- Grinding, welding, flying material suggests it's the eyes that need the protection of goggles.
- Falling material points to cleanup of all loose objects.
- Defective tools shout to be replaced or repaired.

We must believe in unwritten signs to keep safe. If we do recognize them for what they are, signs of trouble pointing the way to an accident, we correct them. We should all observe the signs without words—the potential accident-makers, and correct them as we do not want anyone hurt on the job.

Some people seeing such signs shrug them off as not being their responsibility as they didn't do it or they are not working in that area. When you see such a sign of trouble, remove it even though it isn't bothering anyone. You could possibly save your fellow workers in other crafts from having a bad fall or puncture wound.

Don't leave the hazard for the next person—he or she may not see it—or the next person may be you on the way back.

Watch for hazard signs—correct them. Each correction is an accident prevented—maybe your own.

"Presence of mind" means absence of accidents.