SCOAR Safety Article July 2021

Focus on Safety

I was recently traveling via plane to a project location when I noted an apparent lack of attention to safety. It wasn't from the airline cabin crews, but rather, the patrons. As the Flight attendants presented their safety message to the passengers, only a handful were actually paying attention to the message. Even those asked and charged with exit protocols, nod their heads but quickly returned to their start devices books or similar.

All these individuals taking for granted their safety and the assurance that someone else was ready to assist if required. They heard the speech a thousand times and have become complacent in their duty to pay attention to how to respond in the event of emergency. How defeating for the flight team doing their part.

Is the same experienced in our construction safety meetings on our sites? Are our crew leaders taken for granted in safety or more so, are they being complacent as well in setting the safety expectations of the firms/officers they represent.

I shared recently at the SCOAR Conference in Chattanooga, "What Matters is When Everyone is Watching". I am confident as I watched attentively to the Flight Attendants Safety message that they were committed to the welfare of us all; but I also saw in their eyes the impact of our apparent disinterest.

I challenge us all to be more attentive, present and focused during safety related communications and similar. Be visible in Safety because everyone is watching!

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