

TALKING PAPER
ON
WHY WAIT? / DON'T WAIT -- REPORTING

INTRODUCTION

Few things other than fine wine and whisky improve with time. Certainly bad news, hazards, and mishaps only get worse as time lingers on. All too often, workers, supervisors and leaders will delay reporting hazards and mishaps.

WHY WAIT?

- “I’m busy...I’ll get to it later” — Kickin’ the can down the road.
 - Supervisors often downplay hazards or minor mishaps and minimize their importance.
 - People often don’t want to interrupt their planned or on-going activities to file a report.
 - People often, mistakenly, believe that a hazard/mishap report is a static document that provides historical recording of an event rather than a living document used to prevent future mishaps.
- “It’s a one-off event...won’t happen again”—Stickin’ your head in da sand...don’t worry, it’ll go away.
 - Often people minimize events or dismiss them outright because “it has never happened before.”
 - Trivializing an event dismisses it to irrelevance and reinforces the desire to “blow off” reporting.
 - By minimizing or dismissing the event, people erroneously believe they don’t have underlying problems that need to be addressed
- “It takes too much time”
 - People don’t understand the potential impact of the event...to themselves or others.
 - People aren’t familiar with current reporting tools and assume it involves reams of paper that will take weeks—it may be as simple as a phone call or using the AFSEC Hazard Reporting App.

DON'T WAIT

- Mishap and hazard reports feedback into larger systems to improve safety and operational effectiveness.
- Timely reporting of hazards and mishaps makes a difference — you can prevent the next mishap
- Take time to learn the AF Safety Automated System (AFSAS), the AFSEC Hazard Reporting App (available Spring 2017), and how to report issues to leadership.

BUMPER STICKER

Problems don’t fix themselves—take time to report hazards and mishaps—you may save a life...possibly your own!