



EXPEDITION TO SAFETY

Discussion Topics



Use the following topics to facilitate group discussion.

1. Jim Elzinga says his definition of success is not reaching the top of the mountain. Instead, his definition of success is getting everyone to the bottom again, safe and alive. Here in our workplace, how do we define success?
2. Jim describes goal-focused leadership as when reaching the goal is more important than the safety of individuals. Can you name any examples from your work area where you feel that your safety was jeopardized in an effort to reach a goal?
3. Jim says that human nature leads people to take risks when there is something to be gained from it. What is the potential gain from risky behavior in the workplace? Contrast that gain with the worst case outcome of the risk-taking. Is it worth the risk?
4. After performing a risk assessment for the second expedition, Jim determined that there was no way to navigate the ice fall safely. Instead, he pioneered a new route to avoid the uncontrollable dangers of the ice fall. Can you think of any hazards in our workplace that may require a similar change in approach?
5. In order to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, Jim's expedition created a series of camps. Each camp represented a milestone toward reaching the summit. Describe some of our organization's measurable milestones that are used en route to reaching our safety goals.
6. When Jim Elzinga says "Live It," he is referring to a climber's willingness to abandon the effort to reach the summit if conditions threaten the ability to get back down safely. What are some conditions in the workplace that may cause a worker to have to abandon the effort to complete his or her job?
7. When Sharon and Dwayne finally reached the summit of Mt. Everest, all team members celebrated because everyone felt they were part of the effort. When safety goals are achieved, do you agree that it is because of the individual efforts of all workers?
8. Jim enjoys training and mentoring younger climbers. He wants to pass down safe climbing techniques to the next generation of climbers. Can you give some examples of how workers in our organization can pass down our safety culture to the next generation of workers?