

Safety Day Guide

In this comprehensive guide we go over everything you need to know about hosting a safety day at your facility to reinforce hygiene best practices with your team.

What is a safety day?

A hygiene safety day is a time to bring your staff together to learn and reinforce good hygiene and safety behaviors. During this time, hygiene leaders of a company host interactive educational activities and retraining sessions for their team, covering everything in regards to safety and hygiene at a food processing facility including:

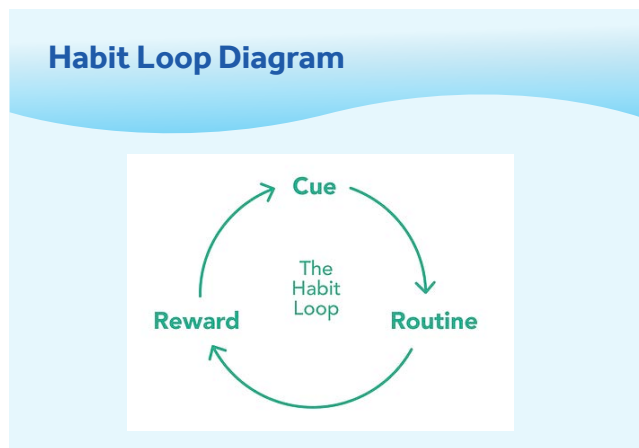
- Slip hazards
- Handwashing best practices
- Using tools in the correct manner
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Following safety rules
- Footwear hygiene best practices
- Personal hygiene and safety
- Safety navigating forklift traffic, catwalks and stairs



Why does a safety day matter?

A hygiene safety day reaffirms the company's commitment to employee safety and consumer safety by reinforcing a culture of hygiene excellence at your facility. During this day it's important to stress that each individual team member has an important part to play in upholding the hygiene best practices at the organization. Readdressing the importance of personal hygiene and doing the right thing when it comes to hygiene, even when no one is watching, is key.

FIGURE 1



It also gives QA/QC leaders an opportunity to train everyone on new hygiene SOPs or retrain on existing procedures. While you may discuss these during huddle talks, a safety day provides team members with an added opportunity to ask more questions about these processes.

A safety day also supports the hygiene habit loop at your organization (see figure 1). This habit loop consists of a cue, routine and reward. Safety days help build that reward by giving organizations a chance to call out good individual hygiene superheroes or overall good hygiene behaviors among the team.

Who participates in a safety day?

Everyone at the facility should participate in the safety day. The goal of this day is to put everyone from managers to production team members on a flat line of leadership when it comes to hygiene. It's important that everyone shows up and participates, including executives and management to demonstrate the company's commitment to hygiene and safety.

When should we have a safety day?

Safety days should be held at least annually, but it ultimately depends on the facility and the capacity of those hosting the safety day(s). Hosting a safety day only once a year might be difficult if you're dealing with a large number of employees and multiple shifts. It may be better to host a safety week with shifts having their team's safety days at different times or on different days entirely to avoid major impacts to production.

When planning the date for your safety day, it's also important to keep in mind trends at your facility. If accidents tend to occur more often around a certain time each year, or if seasonal labor is hired during peak season that may be the perfect time to have a safety day. By having a safety day during this time, you can retrain existing employees on safety best practices to avoid accidents and give new hires the training and coaching they need to uphold the hygiene culture at your facility.



Safety days are a measure of corporate social responsibility

A hygiene safety day helps demonstrate the company's commitment to staff safety and the safety of consumers. From executives to production team members everyone has a responsibility to ensure that the products they manufacture are safe for consumers.



Did you know?

September is National Food Safety Education month

This is a great time to reinforce a culture of hygiene excellence at your organization with a safety day!



How to have a safety day

Here are some tips for a successful safety day at your facility:

Address safety and hygiene concerns in a positive way

A hygiene safety day needs to be a positive day filled with reinforcement of good hygiene behaviors. While it's critical to address safety incidents and hygiene concerns, rather than calling out certain shifts or teams, instead keep them anonymous and focus on what everyone can do as a team to prevent them from happening again.

Keep activities fun and interactive

Not only should everyone be involved on safety days, but they should be having a good time! Keep things positive using activities like hygiene day bingo, having a safety day champion, giving out participation t-shirts or recognizing good hygiene behaviors with hygiene superhero awards.

Reinforce safety day lessons

A safety day should never be just one day of focused safety and hygiene training that's then never talked about again. The positive behaviors that were acknowledged and reinforced during that day should be encouraged throughout the year at your facility. Use huddle talks and visual cues like posters to remind team members of hygiene and safety best practices that were discussed during this event.

Leverage vendors

You don't have to build a safety day alone, leverage your vendors to help build a successful safety day at your facility. For example, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) vendors can demonstrate how to don and doff PPE properly. Also, if you're using a captive footwear program, vendors can come in and make sure that the right footwear is available for staff and check employee footwear for wear and tear that could pose a safety hazard.

Meritech loves safety days! Our hygiene experts can help you organize and host a safety day at your facility. Not only can we reinforce good hand hygiene behaviors but can also demonstrate how CleanTech® Automated Handwashing Stations work and answer any questions from your team about our systems.



**Need help with
your safety day?**

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