

Transforming HII: SPACES

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The acronym for SPACES is Situational Perception and Condition Evaluation Simulator. SPACES is transformational because it's putting safety in the hands of the workers and I think that's very important. It's giving them ownership.

When you change, trying to change the culture if you can't change it to give them ownership, you're not going to change the culture. You can't change the culture, you can't change the behaviors, you can't change the injuries. So changing the culture is what it sets out to do and when the culture starts to change, and they take the ownership of the program - their behaviors change--less injuries.

And I think that's how we've gotten the injuries as low as we have over the last few years. It's culture change.

We take the kind of a traditional historical classroom instruction component, and we also combine kinesthetic hands-on [training]. Basically, what the SPACES simulator is, is a hazard simulator. We've got benign hazards out in real life, a realistic-looking set of these stations where we have these hazards.

And then the participants interact with that station. They may have tasks to do. They may have to do a visual inspection and point out these hazards. And they're all scenario-based, so the participant will read a little placard that explains to them what they're going to be doing.

The instructor will explain what this is, what I want you to do. One station, I see chain falls hanging from the overhead and we teach them if you see chain falls, these are tell-tale signs there could be a suspended load. You don't want to walk under a suspended load. If they don't identify the chains and draw that conclusion, and they go under the suspended load, a piece of duct will drop. It can't drop far enough to hit you, but it will scare you.

So letting them experience that goes a lot farther and it's more indelibly imprinted in their mind when they experience it.