

FOREST SERVICE ALL-EMPLOYEE SAFETY SURVEY

A McIntire-Stennis Project Aimed at Better Understanding Employee's Attitudes



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The USDA Forest Service (FS), like many other federal agencies, is charged with providing a safe working environment for all employees. It is also charged with ensuring that employees are aware of current safety practices and are provided with appropriate safety training. Hence, in 2016, Safety Workshops were held throughout the country for all FS employees. To help evaluate the effectiveness of these workshops all employees were asked to complete a short survey. The survey had two purposes: 1) to acquire baseline data concerning employee attitudes, perceptions, and behavior concerning safe working practices, and 2) to determine the short- and long-term effectiveness of the Safety Workshops. Findings revealed that firefighters and employees involved in forest maintenance as well as those working in law enforcement were less likely to use safety practices compared to their counterparts in front desk or customer service positions. However, the longer an employee's tenure with the agency, the more likely they were to use the safety practices. These and other findings were used to help the FS to tailor training specifically to the needs of various employee groups within the FS.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



COLLABORATION



We work in partnership with the USDA Forest Service senior, regional and site managers across the entire U.S. to create and implement a survey designed to measure the effectiveness of the USDA FS's safety Training Workshops.

Forest Service employees from all 50 states contributed to the final data set.

IMPACT

Each year in the U.S. alone, approximately 6,000 employees die from workplace-related injuries, while another 50,000 die from illnesses caused by exposure to workplace hazards. Another, six million workers suffer non-fatal workplace injuries



The USDA Forest Service is experiencing a growing number of workplace-related accidents.



Instigated safety program to improve employees safety behavior.



Research helped design stronger safety practices for employees.