HOW TIME FLIES....

This exercise explores the areas of deadlines and the work that people perceive to be of importance. This is a great exercise to conduct because the participants experience the unexpected and the discussion that results can become quite meaningful.

WHEN TO USE THIS EXERCISE
This exercise is best used when you want to demonstrate how people feel when their deadlines are changed and or their perceived important work is postponed to a later date. The exercise can be used during any safety meeting or training course and is suitable for groups of any size.

DURATION
Allow 10 to 15 minutes.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
Pen and paper for each participant.

HOW TO RUN THIS EXERCISE

STEP 1 Inform the participants that they are now going to do a safety project and it is important that this project is done to a very high standard. Inform the participants that they will have 20 minutes to complete this project and that they will need to use this time effectively.

STEP 2 Tell the participants that they are to identify a specific behavioural safety issue in the workplace and then devise a way to enhance knowledge and understanding of this issue amongst fellow workers.

Tell the participants that they must be specific, that is, they must write down exactly what the issue is and exactly what they think could be done about it.

Provide the participants with a relevant example. Do not say something general like: “Issue - working at heights”. “Solution – training”. Be specific and detailed so you can literally see the improvement that will be made.

STEP 3 After you have given the participants a relevant example commence the exercise.

After 5 minutes stop the exercise and tell the participants their time is up.

STEP 4 Conduct group discussion.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR GROUP DISCUSSION
Examples of discussion questions include:

- How did you feel when your deadline was suddenly brought forward?
- Does this ever happen in the workplace? What are some examples?
• What are the consequences of this happening?
• What messages does it give to people?
• If it continues to occur how do you think people will react?

The purpose of this exercise was not to test the participants understanding of a specific health and safety issue, (although this is a useful by-product that you may want to follow up on), but to have the participants recognize the emotions that can arise when deadlines are brought forward. If this type of practice occurs (and continues to occur) in the workplace, then people may start to question the relevance of their work and begin to think that their work lacks value.

ATTACHMENTS
None.