

# THE FRONTLINE EMPLOYEE

Wellness, Productivity & You!

E.A.S.E. Inc. • (800) 654-9778 • www.easeeap.com

## New Addition to the EASE Website!

The EASE website now offers a link to a self-help site (also hosted by EASE). The addition is designed to help employees and their family members get information and tools that can help them with problems or challenges in their lives. Activity on the site is protected by Confidentiality and Privacy Policies so no one will know about your visit. There are topics that you can visit to get information or links for more help as well as resources for books, tests and other self-help guides. You can use the, "Ask the Doctor," feature to see responses from an expert to specific questions regarding challenges that people face.

You will need an ID and password to enter. If you don't know your ID and password, please check with your manager or Human Resources Department although you may sign in now through April 1<sup>st</sup> using easeeap.

As always, EASE invites you to contact us by phone, 1-800-654-9778, or e-mail, info@easeeap.com, to set up a face-to-face meeting with one of our licensed counselors in your area. Please let us know what you think of our website by visiting the feedback area.

**www.easeeap.com**

(800) 654-9778 - (503) 228-3223  
24 hours/day - 7 days/week

## Play More, Live Longer

If you are working and postponing recreation and leisure activities until you can retire, consider fitting in some of these activities now. It might help you live longer and improve your mental health. A recent study of 107 sets of senior twins has shown that those who participated in leisure activities in early and middle adulthood had a reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease. In the study, risk was reduced regardless of education level or degree of physical exercise. Another earlier study by the Harvard School of Public Health in 1999 showed that seniors who had an active social life lived longer. *What it means:* Social and leisure activities may be as important to long-term physical and mental health as physical exercise!

Source: Journal of Gerontology Series, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences B: 58:P.249-255.

## Prevent Cold Weather Calamities

Take precautions in cold weather, especially if you work in construction, commercial fishing, maritime or agriculture. OSHA's Cold Stress Card (free at 1-800-321-OSHA) provides guidance on how to combat and prevent many cold weather work injuries. Certain medications can increase the risk of cold-weather injuries. Some health conditions can affect circulatory health as well. Talk to your doctor to learn more. One good tip: When trying to warm up, choose a sports beverage. Warm it, put it in an insulated container, and have it on hand. Avoid coffee, soda, hot chocolate, and especially alcohol.

## Are You Young & Reckless?

As a younger worker, you are 80 percent more likely to be injured on the job, and that injury is more likely to come in the first six months of your employment. That's a key message in the latest report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Many developmental factors contribute to the risk young workers face. How to reduce your risk:

1. Deal effectively with personal issues and conflicts in your life that can distract you on the job and increase risk of injury — home and parent issues, socializing, that new car etc. Remember the EAP as a source of help for confidential problem solving.
2. Use safety equipment and avoid shortcuts. Young workers have a natural sense of invincibility. This is normal, but you can be led to believe that you are not likely to get killed or injured. The opposite is true.
3. Whenever available, participate in company training on using equipment or machinery. Don't miss training and safety workshops. Inexperience and lack of training equal increased risk.
4. Don't shy away from asking questions about safety issues. The younger you are, the harder it is to be assertive and ask for the proper safety equipment to perform a task.
5. If in doubt about how to perform a task or how to handle a piece of equipment, ask. Unwillingness to ask questions can place you at risk of injury.

## EAP Referral Always a Good Thing

**Q** My daycare provider comes to my house late so I can't leave for work on time. My supervisor has known this for two years. Today, he referred me to the EAP after we argued about my coming to work late. Is the referral retaliation?

**A** Although the referral followed your argument, it can't be retaliation. There is nothing revengeful or punitive about an EAP referral. In fact it is the opposite — a supportive attempt to help you and possibly avoid an adverse action to stop your tardiness. Apparently your supervisor has tried to be lenient with your situation, but can't continue. You naturally feel upset after such a long period of accommodation. The EAP can help you examine possible strategies for resolving the daycare issue and your arrival time.

## “Brand”Yourself!

Companies brand their products with attributes like quality, service, safety, security, and dependability. You can do the same with your reputation. Think of co-workers you know who are regarded highly for returning calls promptly, finishing work early, remaining calm in a crisis or always having a smile for those they meet. They've been branded. What positive features or characteristics of your work style do you want others to think of when your name comes to mind? Take advantage of the natural way all of us process and sort information and make it work for you. Think of yourself as a branded product, decide what sets you apart from others and make whatever you do carry that unique and special attribute others will soon remember.

## Employees Sweet on Smucker

The Smucker Company of jam and jelly fame is No. 1 on Fortune magazine's list of the best companies to work for this year.

The untold story about Smucker is that employees have successfully adopted management's philosophy for how to treat their co-workers: Listen with your full attention, look for the good in others, have a sense of humor and say thank you for a job well done. The result — a company with exceptionally high morale.

## Count Carbs On the Web

Are you "low carbing" to lose weight? If so, you don't have to wonder how many grams of carbohydrates are in your food anymore. A free web resource, [www.carbohydrate-counter.org](http://www.carbohydrate-counter.org), helps dieters find the carbohydrate content in thousands of foods — even by brand name! Use it to pick low-carb foods for a low-carbohydrate diet. It also is useful for diabetics who need to watch carbohydrate levels. (Before dieting, always consult your doctor.)