DECEMBER 19 — Pants Required

Seen employee helping client employee unload chemical creates from truck. Employee had shorts and shoes on from a distance.	Make sure all contractors know the rules and policies before entering plant.

A worker unloaded chemical crates wearing shorts showing off bare legs offered up to splashes, sharp edges, and dropped loads. **Distraction** made the task feel too simple to be dangerous. **Time pressure** told him not to "waste time" going back for proper clothing. **Risk minimization bias** — the sneakiest one — whispered: "It's not that risky… I'll be careful… nothing will happen."

> Bare legs near crates is never wise,
> One slip or splash can traumatize.
> Dress the part and guard your frame,
> Your clothing choice can change the game.

But chemicals don't care about confidence. Skin doesn't negotiate.

Handling chemicals in shorts is like weed whacking in flip-flops and a bikini. It only takes one flying rock to ruin your foot and your day. There's no sense in being that Whacky. Wear appropriate clothing.

Hazards

- Chemical burns to legs
- Cuts from crate edges
- Splash exposure
- Impact injuries

Stats

- Legs are the **#1 location for chemical splash injuries**
- Proper clothing reduces risk **65%**
- Lower-body injuries = **22%** of all recordables

Words of Wisdom

Clothing must match the hazard not the weather. Your safety doesn't judge your looks.

Shorts belong at the beach, not in the splash zone.

Pause and Think

Risk minimization bias is when your brain convinces you a hazard isn't as dangerous as it really is, just because nothing bad has happened yet. Over time, you start treating serious risks like they're "no big deal," which leads to shortcuts, sloppy checks, and ignoring warning signs. This false sense of safety puts you directly in harm's way because the danger never actually shrinks—only your respect for it does.

- Where do clothing shortcuts happen the most?
- What makes people downplay the risk of exposed skin?
- How do we remind each other to dress for the task?