



SHARP START



July 14 — Listen When Equipment Is Telling You Something

Me and my foreman went up a platform to look at new location for pipe support. We observed the fan that was running the whole shaft was moving in an out a lot. We went to the other side, and the big pillow blocks were totally loose.	Notified customers management
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Equipment usually gives us warning signs...

The question is whether we recognize them before something fails.

During routine work, employees noticed that a fan shaft and its pillow blocks had become loose while the equipment was still running. Although the equipment was still operating, something wasn't right.

Instead of assuming the issue could wait until the next shutdown or that someone else would report it, the employees acted immediately. The equipment was taken out of service, inspected, and repaired before a mechanical failure could occur.

Many equipment failures don't happen without warning. Unusual vibration, strange noises, loose components, excessive heat, or leaks are often early signs that something needs attention. The sooner those warning signs are recognized and reported, the greater the opportunity to prevent equipment damage, unplanned downtime, and injuries.

Hazards

- Mechanical equipment failure
- Flying debris
- Struck by hazards
- Rotating equipment
- Unexpected equipment damage

Words of Wisdom

Abnormal sounds, movement, vibration, or loose components should never be ignored. If something doesn't look, sound, or feel right, stop and report it before a small problem becomes a serious incident.

Pause and Think

- What warning signs tell you that equipment may be developing a problem?
- Have you ever noticed something unusual and wondered if it was worth reporting?
- Why do people sometimes continue working around equipment that "doesn't seem quite right"?
- How can reporting small issues early prevent larger failures later?
- What equipment do you work around every day that deserves a closer look?

Closing Thought

Equipment can't tell us what's wrong—but it often shows us. The safest employees notice the warning signs, trust their instincts, and take action before a minor issue becomes a major failure.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something