People can be reluctant to ask for help. "Will it make me look weak?" "Will it make me look incompetent?"

While self-sufficiency is an admirable quality, self-sufficiency can sometimes be taken to the extreme and lead to injuries and other incidents.

Sometimes people simply don’t think to ask for help. Sometimes they don’t realize they need help. And sometimes they simply aren’t aware that there is a safer way to do something.

In a true brother and sister’s keeper safety culture, the need to pitch in and help is assumed. We don’t wait for someone to ask for help, we offer to help. We all take personal responsibility. Safety is a given in all aspects of our day.

As an example, no one should observe another person preparing to take a risky action and fail to say something.

As another example, no one should walk by a puddle on the floor and assume it’s someone else’s responsibility to clean up. The puddle is cleaned up on first sight so that nobody slips.

Only in a work environment of personal responsibility can we ever truly believe that everyone is going to go home safe at the end of each and every day. It’s really simply about being a good human being.

Help Wanted—Brother and Sister’s Keepers Needed

“That looks heavy. Let me help you with that."

“Wait a second. Let me show you a safer way to do that."

“Hold on. Let me spot for you as you back that machine out of the shop."

“That’s a pretty sharp tool. Let me get your gloves for you."

“Let me grab that door for you so that you don’t drop those boxes."

“That’s a long way to carry those buckets. Let’s grab a cart and I’ll help you load it."

Be a Brother and Sister’s Keeper

Be proactive. Freely offer help and also be willing to accept help gracefully. Take personal responsibility for everyone’s safety.