

“Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat.” – Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple. Few will argue that Steve Jobs is an innovator that knew that holding on to what is familiar, comfortable, or easy would never make our world better and that change would always be needed to advance society.

The goal of improving safety and health outcomes for the member of the KYTC team will mean we too need to be willing not just to accept change but embrace and seek it out. Staying comfortable with the ways we “have always done it here” mean we will continue to see preventable work-related injuries and close-calls, and one day it might involve you.

The Secretary’s Office of Safety is underway with many changes and as expected, some discomfort, as we work to change our little KYTC world for the better. These changes include:

- Focused attention on researching the causes and factors involved in every injury, property damage incident, or near-miss with the goal of learning how we can prevent them in the future.
- Assisting District Safety Committees to better share goals, best practices, and help them with the issues important to their area and others across KYTC.
- Launching the BOOTS system to gather data needed to learn how and where to improve our programs and procedures to prevent incidents while improving communication.
- Engaging all employees in contributing to our safety programs through Foundations for Safety Leadership and encouraging open communication of issues in a non-blaming environment.
- Encouraging everyone to share near-miss events and ideas for safety improvements with the Safety team following up on each to learn, share, and improve from each.

All of these are much different than “the way we have always done it here”. We know that there may be some that will be resistant to new, different ways that drive us out of our comfort zone. But the overwhelming majority of the KYTC team embraces the need for change and adaptability, and that the goal of making sure ALL of us go home healthy and safe every day is a goal we can all support!