Safety: Why

Why do businesses develop safety programs? Most of the time it's "compliance." But that is an answer that small companies give: larger companies; however, state "profit."

There are many reasons why businesses develop a safety program, such as complying with OSHA regulations, minimizing the impact of insurance rates, reducing injuries, or minimizing risk exposures. On the surface, it appears that most companies pay attention to safety to avoid something: recurrence of a recent serious injury; OSHA penalties; high insurance rates. While all of these are good reasons, these actions are re-actions: in each case safety isn't planned; it's a reaction to something that happens.

The thought of safety contributing to a business's success is far removed from avoidance. In a recent study conducted within the past 10 years, the top five (5) reasons why businesses invest in safety include:
1. Maintaining Profitability
2. Concern for the Well Being of Employees
3. Insurance Company Pressure / High Ex-Mod
4. OSHA Regulations
5. Company Reputation

What the results indicate is that profitability, concern for employee well-being, and cost controls, not compliance, motivate decision makers. And each of the top three are viewed and measured as contributing to the organization's success.

Think about it: safe, satisfied employees are more likely to stay in their jobs, generate better work and be more productive. The result is decreased costs associated with production and increased business value.