Safety affects everyone, either positively or negatively. Safety relates to personal matters as well as property. It seems we sometimes find ourselves in too much of a hurry, trying to cut corners to meet deadlines or to meet the expectations of others.

But there is no room for short cuts when it comes to matters of safety. As spring is near and vacation planning close at hand, now is an excellent time to stop and remind ourselves to think safety—whether at home, on the job or heading out for that much deserved family vacation.

**Many Reasons Why**

Personal safety includes safety on the job, at home and other places where accidents can occur. Taking time to think and plan before beginning a task can help avoid injury or unnecessary property damage. For example, evaluating the conditions before climbing a ladder and following proper techniques can possibly prevent a fall. We all know that ladders slip on wet floors or from poor positioning and other controllable circumstances. Personal safety also includes a variety of considerations such as wearing prescribed personal protective equipment, using proper lifting techniques to avoid back injuries, keeping alert while driving, checking the electrical cords on electrical appliances and tools, and much more.

Safety on the job is important for your, your family, your co-workers and your employer. A good safety record also can help your company provide services at competitive prices to increase business.
Remember, safety is important to your family and your future. Take time to make safety a state of mind.

**Gypsum Board Safety**

Gypsum board is heavy and thickness sizes that make it especially proper care, concern and equipment are important to your personal safety. Correct and safe stacking and manual labor and special heavy equipment around you and following company
dations are important to your personal safety. Correct and safe stacking and manual labor and special heavy
Correct and safe stacking and storing of gypsum board require manual labor and special heavy equipment. If not handled properly, the board can be destroyed, workers can be injured and property can be damaged.

the board can be destroyed, workers can be injured and other property damage can occur.

Gypsum board should be supported by the edges when carried manually, but store it flat for safety. Boards that are improperly stacked vertically on edge can damage the edges and have a distinct inclination to become unstable and topple over if mishandled. Using suitable stacking methods may prevent the gypsum board from falling over and injuring workers and damaging the board.

Supervisors should have materials available for employees who wish brush up on safety procedures at the job site and for new employees who need information for the first time.

Remember, safety is important to your family and your future. Take the time to make safety a State of mind. CD

About the Author
Tara Whitmire works for the Gypsum Association, Washington, D.C.

The Gypsum Association makes available a manual, Handling Gypsum Board—GA-801, which discusses the techniques of handling and storing gypsum board. Safety materials that cover personal safety, first aid, hazard communication, electrical safety, lock-out/tag-out, forklift training, handling gypsum board are available for supervisors to give to their workers. Contact the association at (202) 289-5440.