Frank Gifford, Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood and Your Responsibility for Workplace Safety

Sadly, two seemingly unrelated workplace events occurred last week. One was the announcement by Frank Gifford's family that he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a progressive brain disease linked to the types of brain injuries and head trauma common in football. The family made the announcement that a pathology study of his brain after his death revealed the presence of the disease.  http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/25/health/frank-gifford-cte-concussion-chronic-traumatic-encephalopathy/

The Colorado shooting at a Planned Parenthood clinic illustrated another kind of workplace injury: the horrific shooting that left three dead and eight injured. While these may seem like very different kinds of events, they remind us all that workplace safety needs to be a priority and that there are things that can be done to keep our workplaces safer.

The research shows that these three tactics really do work, including:

1. **Tracking small incidents to forecast trends.** I just spoke to a client today who admitted that they were not keeping track of smaller safety problems, just addressing them on the spot. Yet, we all know that "what gets measured gets done", and if we don't keep track, we may not spot the trend that smaller incidents are piling up and may become large problems.

2. **Training managers on how to respond to workplace violence and other safety issues.** While we don't know if there is anything that could have been done to prevent some outside person such as the Colorado Springs shooter from entering and violating that workplace in such a horrific way, there usually are threats or clues that violent incidents may occur and specific steps you can take to head these off.

3. **Call - and listen to - the experts.** While we do conduct sessions in how to prevent workplace violence, we do not conduct threat assessments ourselves. We never hesitate to bring in an expert if we think that one is needed. Experts have warned pro football teams and management for years about CTE but they have been turning a blind eye to the problem. Ask yourself what expertise you need to listen to in your workplace to make sure that things don't escalate beyond your control.
Did You Know We Can Help?

We provide research-based workshops in preventing workplace violence, as well as managing conflict in the workplace. Call us if you want to make sure that you are doing everything you can to prevent the next workplace tragedy.

MORE TIPS ON CREATING SAFER WORKPLACES

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Lynne Eisaguirre  
Workplaces That Work  
3985 Wonderland Hill Avenue, Suite 106  
Boulder, Colorado 80304  
303-216-1020  
lynne@workplacesthatwork.com  
www.workplacesthatwork.com

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