

Speak Up for Safety: Make the Report Lead to Action

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | Reviewed October 6, 2026 | Discussion + field checks

Why this matters

Reporting helps when someone listens, protects people and follows through. A worker should not have to make a perfect explanation before a concern is taken seriously. Check the response process as well as the reporting route.

Objective: Use the reporting route and trace one concern to verified action and feedback.

Key hazards or failure points

Fear of blame; an unreachable contact; pressure to keep quiet; reports with no owner; closure without correction; a worker expected to repair something outside their authority.

Practical controls

- Agree a clear reporting route and backup for this shift. Make it usable for all affected workers, including temporary staff. Explain the site's pause-work and escalation arrangements.
- The leader acknowledges the concern, checks immediate exposure and listens to what makes the work difficult. Arrange protection and assign a correction owner with the resources to act.
- Give the reporter and affected crew useful feedback. Check the actual correction with people doing the work. Do not discourage reports through blame, retaliation or incentives that reward silence.

Verify It in the Field

Use a harmless rehearsal: ask a worker how to report a concern from this location. Confirm the responsible contact receives it and that the backup works. Do not create a real hazard as a test.

Choose one previously reported issue and inspect its status from a safe position. Compare what was promised with the actual protection. Ask affected workers whether the problem is resolved or has moved elsewhere.

Check the action record for owner, due point, interim protection and evidence of effectiveness. Confirm feedback reached the crew. Record factual conditions and work changes, not blame labels or personal diagnoses.

Stop and reassess

Hold exposure to an immediate serious hazard or missing required control through the site's safe process. Escalate an urgent unanswered concern or failed reporting route. Use the appropriate protected reporting channel for retaliation concerns; do not pressure someone to ignore the issue.

Ask the crew

1. What makes it hard to raise a concern here?
2. What should the first person receiving a report do?
3. Which reported issue should we verify today?

Today's check: follow one report through to a field result.

Sources: OSHA worker participation, hazard control and program-evaluation recommended practices.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance, references, supervisor check and attendance record accompany this talk.