

RealCareer™ Employability Skills Program

Manufacturing Careers

Problem-Solving

Scenario: You're loading pallets of finished products into a trailer when you notice that the trailer is moving a bit when it should be locked into place by the loading dock clamps. You take a closer look and find that the clamps are connected, but not as firmly as normal. You'll lose two hours of pay if you stop to wait for maintenance to make the repair, but you also don't want to be unsafe. You have the idea that a quick fix would be to grab rocks from the yard to block the trailer's tires, allowing you to feel safe enough to continue working. You resolve to let maintenance know about the issue after your shift is over.

Points of view to consider

- You
 - Your plant's safety manager
 - Your manager
-

Key questions

- What is the most important priority in this situation: your safety, your pay, finding the right solution, finding a quick solution, or something else?
- Does your solution of using rocks to block the tires affect only yourself or other people and your company as well? How so?
- You remember that your plant's safety manager once told a story of a trailer flipping over when the dock clamps failed. How might this affect your decision to use rocks and continuing to work?