The headline read, “Worker Seriously Burned”. The article that followed expounded on the headline and explained that there was an explosion and his clothing caught fire.

In actuality, the worker mistakenly attached an oxygen line, rather than a water line, to the tank on the back of a jet drill. The explosion occurred when the worker opened the valve and his clothes were instantly ablaze.

At a different plant, a worker entered a machine without turning the power off. While he was inside, another worker started the machine and the man inside was crushed between the male and female ends of the press. Both of these accidents violated one of the basic safety rules – “Don’t Take Anything for Granted!” Both of the workers made an erroneous presumption.

In the first example, the worker did not verify that the line he connected to the water tank was water rather than oxygen. The second worker failed to turn his machine off since he believed that no one else would start it. Both workers made a faulty presumption and caused a grave or fatal accident.

When someone assumes something or takes it for granted, several safety violations are committed. Poor communication, inattentiveness, and taking a chance are poor substitutes for doing it right the first time.

Some simple steps will prevent these accidents. You should double check the equipment if you need to. Examine tools for faults before use. Take a glance before stepping into any aisle so that you avoid power trucks or other personnel.

Develop a “safety first” attitude. Remember, you have to want to be safe before you will take the extra steps to actually be safe.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your work, consult your supervisor immediately. Safety should never be taken for granted.