

What is the purpose of having/following a "Code of Ethics"?

According to the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers, engineering is an important profession and it has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life of all people. Therefore, the service provided by engineers requires honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Following the Code of Ethic will help engineers perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principle of ethical conduct.

When you are faced with an ethical situation, how do you, personally, go about making a decision? What factors are involved in you making a decision? Be specific!

When facing an ethical situation as engineers I shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public is the number one priority.

What case study was discussed in your small group? How did the ethical considerations introduced by your group members differ from your own? How were they alike? Was your group able to come to a consensus on what the most "ethical" decision would be?

Case Study: Ford Pinto

Our though we very similar toward the Pinto case. We all thought it was very cruel to give human life a price. All it takes was one person to speak up, and take action toward the issue to ensure the safety of the consumer.

Reflect on the "Virtue of Ethics" as it relates to the case study your group discussed. Choose three of the six virtues that you feel are most related to your case study and briefly write about them. Why did you choose the three you did? How are they relevant to the case study? Why are the other virtues less relevant? Is there another ethical virtue you feel could apply to your case study that is NOT included in the "Virtue of Ethics?" Why or why not?

Integrity:

Integrity can be view as moral uprightness. We can clearly see the lack of integrity in the case of the Ford Pinto. Every engineer responsible for the Pinto project knew that there were problems with the fuel tank not meeting the standard. However, no one take actions and decided to release the product.

Charity:

Charity can be view as compassion and mercy toward human life. Every engineer responsible for the Pinto knew that the fuel tank issue will lead to deadly accident. No one take any action against it, but rather calculate the profit that the company will earn if paid \$200,000 per death. We can really see that lack of charity toward every single person that was responsible for the Pinto project.

Responsibility:

“Responsibility is accountability, trustworthiness, dependability, reliability, and recognizing a personal and moral obligation to act for the good of others” (Brant, 2012, p.21). The responsibility of every manager and every engineer on the Pinto project was to ensure the safety of human life while operating the vehicle. However, the lack of responsibility in this case causes many injure and taken away many lives.

References

Brant, William A. (Bill). (2012). The Right Choice: Applying Ethics to Engineering. *PDH Online, PDH center*, 21-23.

NSPE. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.nspe.org/Ethics/CodeofEthics/index.html>