A MAN AND A MOUSE

This is a quick and simple perception exercise that can be used to demonstrate the fact that different people see different things. This exercise is a valuable training tool that can be used to assist us in the area of safety.

WHEN TO USE THIS EXERCISE
This exercise can be used during any safety meeting, training session, or safety induction and can be used with groups of any size. It has many different uses, for example, it can be used when you want to emphasize the reason why we need to have more than one person involved in a serious accident investigation, or it can be used to emphasize the importance of different individuals conducting pre-start checks on equipment.

When people see the associated picture some of them will see the man first and others will see the mouse first. This demonstrates a difference in people’s perception. This exercise can be used to complement training in the areas of:

- Hazard Identification
- Job Safety Analysis
- Accident Investigation
- Risk Management.
- Etc.

DURATION
Allow 5 to 10 minutes.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
An overhead or handout of the man and the mouse perception picture.

HOW TO RUN THIS EXERCISE

STEP 1  Show an overhead or picture of the man and the mouse to the participants.

STEP 2  Ask the participants: “What do you see?”

        Get responses from the participants.

STEP 3  Conduct the group discussion.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR GROUP DISCUSSION
Examples of discussion questions include:

- Who saw the picture of the man first? Who saw the picture of the mouse first?
- Who saw the ‘opposite’ image directly after it was mentioned?
• Who took a while to see the ‘opposite’ image?
• Does this difference in perception also occur in the workplace or does it only occur with pictures like this? If it does occur in the workplace what are some examples?
• Can this difference of perception also affect safety? If so how?
• How can we use differing safety perceptions to improve safety in the workplace?

ATTACHMENTS
The man and the mouse perception picture.