

# I CHOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY

A poem about Health and Safety written by

**Don Merrell**

I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way.  
It wasn't that I didn't care,  
I had the time, and I was there.

But I didn't want to seem a fool,  
Or argue over a safety rule.  
I knew he'd done the job before,  
If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,  
I'd done the same, He knew I had.  
So I shook my head and walked on by,  
He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,  
And with that act, I let him die.  
I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,  
I'll know, I should have saved his life.  
That guilt is something I must bear,  
But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,  
That puts their health or life at stake.  
The question asked, or thing you say,  
Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,  
Then hope you never have to say,  
I could have saved a life that day,  
But **I chose**, to look the other way.

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