

SAFETY Program Outline: Construction Industry



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WHO MAKES IT GO?

A risk management program cannot succeed without safety management leadership. Make safety part of the corporate culture in your entire operation. Consider the following:

- ◆ Establish a broad statement of policy on safe practices and conditions for your organization.
- ◆ Give responsibility and authority for coordination of loss control activities to a specific person.
- ◆ Periodically review results of your loss control activities to assure they accomplish your goals.
- ◆ Communicate your reactions to your organization.
- ◆ Personally participate in safety activities and make sure that unsafe conditions and actions are corrected.
- ◆ Place one person in charge of “Safety” at each job site.

HOW TO START

Hazards must be detected and unsafe work practices and procedures changed in order to have effective Loss Control. A specific person should have the responsibility and authority to see that the job is done safely. If work is done safely, costs will be reduced through less waste, proper maintenance of equipment and reduced injuries. Consider the following:

- ◆ Regular physical inspections/audits of your operations premises and job sites.
- ◆ Study work practices and determine the safest and most efficient way to perform your work.
- ◆ Set up supervisory and employee safety and health training. Have supervisors hold regular “Tool Box” meetings with employees to discuss specific problems.
- ◆ Investigate causes of losses and suggest corrective action to management, supervision and employees.
- ◆ Regularly analyze trends in losses and near misses and communicate your plans to correct.

- ◆ Consider an award program that introduces competition. Be consistent with your expectations of production, quality, customer service and safety.

SAFETY & HEALTH TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS AND EMPLOYEES

Unsafe acts, or human failures are the cause of 85% to 90% of accidents. These “accidents” result in either ruined material damaged equipment or injured people.

Training and education is one way to reduce or eliminate these losses. Through training and education, new employees learn the correct way to do a job. Consider the following:

- ◆ Establish baseline expectations through written work practices and rules and communicate them to everyone.
- ◆ Teach new employees about loss control principles and management’s expectations for safe work performance. Develop a new employee orientation checklist.
- ◆ Establish a job safety analysis program (JSA).
- ◆ Teach supervisors the techniques of effective employee training.
- ◆ Use educational materials such as posters, handouts, signs, videos, computer based training, digital photos or videos of actual work, computer based training, etc.

MAINTAINING SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

Periodic inspections/audits of your job sites and production areas and prompt actions for control will help insure safe working conditions. Consider the following:

- ◆ Conduct weekly inspections using a check sheet.
- ◆ Conduct a job safety analysis (JSA) of critical jobs/operations using a video for documentation.
- ◆ Take digital photos on unsafe conditions and use the photo to communicate the problem and solution.

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- ◆ Develop a job site safety check list to include (but not be limited to) the following:

Administration

- ◆ Tool box meetings
- ◆ First aid
- ◆ Emergency phone numbers
- ◆ Emergency procedures
- ◆ Fire Extinguisher

Personal Protective Equipment

- ◆ Eye Protection
- ◆ Hard Hats
- ◆ Safety Shoes
- ◆ Respirators
- ◆ Safety Harness
- ◆ Gloves

Housekeeping

- ◆ Minimize slip/fall hazards
- ◆ Passageways clear
- ◆ Nails removed
- ◆ Isolate hazardous materials, tools, employees

Welding

- ◆ Operators trained
- ◆ Shields
- ◆ Gas cylinders chained

Excavating and Shoring

- ◆ Adequate for soil and depth
- ◆ Lighting – night
- ◆ Roads and passageways protected/bermed

Hoists, Cranes and Derricks

- ◆ Cable inspection
- ◆ Power lines
- ◆ Proper capacity
- ◆ Trained/certified operators

Scaffolding

- ◆ Stable installation and footings
- ◆ Safe tie-in to structure
- ◆ Public protection
- ◆ Guard rails & toe boards
- ◆ Fall protection

Ladders

- ◆ Proper ladders for the job
- ◆ Inspection schedule
- ◆ Well maintained, stored, secured

Power Tools

- ◆ Proper grounding, GFCI
- ◆ Operators trained
- ◆ Proper maintenance

Fire Protection

- ◆ Fire extinguishers appropriate and accessible
- ◆ Housekeeping adequate
- ◆ Flammable liquids and gasses isolated
- ◆ Trained personnel
- ◆ Emergency planning

Floor Openings

- ◆ Properly protected
- ◆ OSHA Fall Protection Standard observed

ACCIDENT RECORDS

Conduct immediate and detailed accident investigation. This will allow you to set priorities and focus problem areas. The causes should be determined and corrective action taken to prevent similar losses.

It is important that this report be prepared even if no injury results. The same accident might or might not cause an injury or damage to material or equipment. The important thing is to correct the causes of the accident.

Accident information is useless without a periodic analysis to help guide corrective actions.

A Supervisors' Accident Investigation form should be used. Supervisors should be instructed on the correct use of the form.

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MEDICAL AND FIRST AID

Immediate first aid and proper medical treatment of minor cuts and bruises and major serious injuries may prevent infections, permanent disability or even death. Consider the following:

- ◆ Provide adequate first aid facilities. Seek advice from your consulting physician to help you determine what supplies are needed.
- ◆ Job placement physical examinations will help you in having employees work within their physical capabilities.
- ◆ Post emergency phone numbers at job sites.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ A written procedure for safety discipline
- ◆ OSHA required training programs such as
 - ◆ Lock Out/Tag Out
 - Hazard Communications
 - Fork Lift
 - Respirators
- ◆ A written program for vehicle safety

COMPUTER WEB SITES

- ◆ OSHA.SAFETY.GOV - This is a web site that is easy to explore and contains all the OSHA standards. It includes letters of interpretation, accident facts and other valuable information.

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