# Safety & Health Programs

# Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Safety and health programs are an effective way to:

- Reduce work related injuries and illnesses
- Improve morale and productivity
- Reduce workers' compensation costs

# Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Programs

There are four major elements of an effective occupational safety and health program. These four major elements are:

- Management commitment and employee involvement
- Worksite analysis
- Hazard prevention and control
- Safety and health training

# Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Common characteristics of a safety and health culture are:

- Management believes that safety and health on the job is an important company goal, along with cost control, quality, and productivity.
- Individuals within the organization believe they have a right to a safe and healthy workplace.
- Each person accepts personal responsibility for ensuring his or her own safety and health.
- Everyone believes he or she has a duty to protect the safety and health of others.

# Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Businesses and organizations also have safety and health policies they abide by and goals they would like to reach. These include:

– Clearly state a worksite's safety and health policy

– Establish and communicate a clear goal and objective for the safety and health program

– Involve top management in implementing the program

**WARNING**

HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AREA. RESTRICTED AREA

# Introduction to Occupational Safety and Health Programs

Employee involvement is also key in an ideal work environment. Businesses and organization encourage employees to get involved in the safety and health programming and decision making process, as well as communicating responsibility for all program aspects.

## Hazard Identification: Comprehensive Survey

- A thorough worksite analysis should be done to identify any existing hazards and to manage conditions and operations where changes may occur to create hazards.

- Management must provide resources and authority so that all personnel can locate hazards and eliminate or control them promptly.

# Hazard Identification: Safety & Health Inspections

Safety and health inspections should be made on regular intervals, usually on a weekly basis, and are designed to catch hazards missed at other stages. In addition, daily work inspection procedures should be established.

- Inspections should cover every part of the worksite
- They should be performed on a regular basis
- In-house inspectors should be trained to recognize and control hazards
- Identified hazards should be tracked until corrected
- Inspector information should be used to improve the hazard prevention and control program

## Hazard Identification: Additional Worksite Analysis

Accidents and "near miss" incidents should be investigated, so that their causes and means for prevention are identified. Also, injuries and illness trends should be analyzed, so that common cause patterns can be prevented.

# Hazard Prevention and Control

The first step in hazard prevention and control is to determine if a hazard or potential hazard exists and then attempt to eliminate these hazards by using an effective design of the job or jobsite. If the hazard cannot be eliminated, use hazard controls.

# Hazard Prevention and Control



Hazards can be controlled by:

- Engineering controls
- Administrative controls
- Personal protective equipment
- Communication of safe work practices
  - Training and positive reinforcement
  - Correction of unsafe performance
  - Enforcement

# Safety and Health Programs

## Hazard Prevention Planning

- Preventing a hazard includes:
  - Maintaining the facility and equipment
  - Emergency planning
    - Training and drills, as needed
  - Medical programs
    - Maintaining first aid on site
    - Ensuring that physician and emergency care is available nearby
- Training is key for hazard prevention; it is the backbone of the system. Safety and health responsibilities must be addressed during training.

# Safety and Health Training

- Supervisors are responsible for analyzing work to identify potential hazards in areas of responsibility, maintaining physical protections in work areas, reinforcing employee training through performance feedback and, if needed, enforcing safe work practices.

- Specific training needs include:
  - Hazard recognition
  - Training required in standards
  - Emergency response
  - Accident investigation
  - Emergency drills