

# Seven Essential Elements Of Safety and Health Management

Doing business the safe healthful way requires:

1. **Top management commitment.** People are a company's most important resource, and ensuring their safety and health is a principal responsibility of top management. This commitment must also be communicated to the workers.

2. **Employee involvement** including workers' active participation developing and implementing a workplace safety and health program. The system should provide a way for workers and managers to relay their ideas.

3. **Hazard identification, assessment, control, and prevention.** This involves a system to regularly conduct workplace inspections, and perform follow-up activities to eliminate hazards. It should include engineering controls, ergonomic design and a system to evaluate and maintain personal protective equipment. There should also be written provisions to handle emergencies.

4. **Assignment of responsibility and authority** for workplace safety and health to supervisors. Routine performance evaluations should be conducted to assure the

responsibility is being met. Both labor and management should be held accountable.

5. **Safety and health training** for employees, including supervisors. All training should be documented.

6. **Accident and incident investigation** for prevention of future occurrences. Changes, if necessary, should be made in the workplace to create a safer and healthier environment.

7. **Periodic system review and follow-up activities** to assure the safety and health management program is being effective.

To reduce costs and risks of occupational accidents, workplace safety and health must be a major management issue along with production, sales and quality control. If an employer makes workplace safety and health management a basic part of the way they do business, they'll see real cost benefits. Active and aggressive top management commitment is the key to making a safety and health program work. Accident prevention is good business!

—Oregon Health and Safety Resource

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