Newsletter

Spotlight on Safety

About the National Safety Council:

The National Safety Council saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads through leadership, research, education and advocacy. Visit us at nsc.org for up-to-date industry news, information and tools to take your safety program to the next level.

Featured Safety Poster:

REMINDER
Safety doesn't take a break.
Make time for safety.

Stay safe.

Share this poster with your employees to remind them that Safety doesn't take a break.
Get the poster.

Featured Webinar

Welcome to *Spotlight on Safety,* an e-newsletter brought to you by the Department of the Interior Office of Occupational Safety and Health in partnership with the National Safety Council. We hope you will find this service of value.
Send feedback or ideas on topics you would like to see to membershipinfo@nsc.org. Please put "Department of the Interior feedback" in the subject line.

5-Minute Safety Talk: Best Practices to Improve Safety Performance

Everyone is responsible for creating a safe work environment. There are steps you can take to be successful in eliminating workplace injuries. Use this 5-minute Safety Talk to get your employees on board in developing a solid commitment to safety.

Workplace Safety Starts at the Top - But it Doesn't End There

Strong safety performance depends on the eyes and ears of every employee in an organization - from the front lines to the back office. Inspiring employees to contribute to stellar safety outcomes requires safety leaders who can show - not just tell - employees how their contributions affect safety.

Fostering a top-notch safety culture and environment starts at the top.

What is a Safety Leader?
Creating an environment where employees want to engage in safety and move toward safer behaviors is the job of safety managers and supervisors. These leaders are ultimately responsible for:

- Implementing safety management systems
- Ensuring employees complete safety training

- Rooting out and resolving safety challenges before injuries occur
- Interacting with employees, creating a culture of safety and motivating employee engagement
- Responding to incidents

It's a big job.

Brian Kraus, managing partner of Global Performance Assurance, said in an NSC webinar about Safety Performance and Leadership that the focus on safety at work has never been greater. Risk tolerance is declining, and regulations, investor pressure and cost pressures are tightening. The challenge is to get all employees - many of whom have packed schedules and are less involved with safety on a daily basis - to become more engaged in their own safety and that of their co-workers.

That's not always easy, says Kraus. For better risk control, better compliance with legal obligations and, most importantly, attaining zero injuries and deaths, there must be a shift in behavior and attitude throughout the organization, he said. Leaders need to make employees conscious of things they're doing on the job that might be putting people at risk.

"We can only change how people act if we get them to think differently," he said.

It's About Priorities
In an environment where pressure to get product out the door is ever-present, employees need to know that safety always trumps productivity.
Safety managers need to:

- Get out and talk with employees at all levels to share their safety philosphy
- Hold regular safety meetings and provide real data on an organization's vulnerable areas
- Listen to the issues employees have and understand what their challenges are
- Respect the team by valuing their opinions and implementing their ideas
- Train, train, train
- Measure performance

When a safety system does fail, investigators will always look for where the breakdown occurred. Was there a breakdown in culture? Process? Engineering and design?

It Takes More than Words
An organization can have all the safety management systems in place, but without strong safety leadership and the ability to use the systems in the right way, employees will not be as safe as they could be.

Leaders can cause a dramatic shift in performance by focusing on the right things. Are you using your processes correctly? To what extent do training, time in the field, meetings, audits, metrics reporting and strategic planning really causing a shift in employee behavior?

Only 10 percent of safety training, for example, is directly causing shifts in behavior. But safety training combined with a strong safety culture, positive interactions with workers in the field and equipping individuals so they can facilitate a dialog about poor performance or evidence of risk can create substantial change.

The most emphasis should be placed where risks are the greatest.

Safety systems are better today than they were 100-plus years ago, when the National Safety Council was launched, but 11 workers still die every day on the job in the United States. Safety doesn't have an end-game. While zero injuries and deaths is the goal, safety is an ever-evolving process: A Journey.

The Journey to Safety Excellence
The NSC Journey to Safety Excellence is a roadmap, with measurement tools, guides and access to safety professionals who can answer all your questions. The Journey increases safety, morale and compliance through four pillars:

- Leadership and employee engagement
- Safety management systems
- Risk reduction
- Performance measurement

Set your team up for success. Get more information on the Journey to Safety Excellence here.

Safety Leadership Award
If your organization has had zero injuries or fatalities in a consecutive five-year period, it might be eligible for a Safety Leadership Award from NSC. Get the rules and application here.

Workplace Injuries by the Numbers

If you ever doubted the importance of workplace safety leadership, check out these statistics reported in Injury Facts 2015. Statistics refer to data from 2013:

- 3,738 people died on the job
- About 1,500 workplace deaths resulted from motor vehicle crashes
- 4.8 million people were injured at work
- 37 percent of workplace injuries (331,130) were due to overexertion, the largest cost burden at

- $14.2 billion
- Workplace injuries (including wage and productivity losses, medical costs, employers' uninsured costs, administrative expenses and more) cost more than $206 billion
- 60 million days were taken off work due to injury
- Highway crashes are the leading cause of unintentional death in the workplace; falls are second
- More than 20% of the workforce has misused prescription painkillers
- Occupational injuries and illnesses are underestimated; 90 percent of organizations do not comply with OSHA recordkeeping regulations

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