Accident Investigation Safety Brief

Accidents do not just happen. Unsafe acts and/or unsafe conditions cause them. An important element of a well-rounded and effective safety program is the investigation of accidents. The causes of accidents can be determined and effective controls can be developed by proper accident investigation. Additionally, the investigation of accidents has an educational value for those who participate in the inquiry. Accident Investigation is both proactive and reactive.

Purpose

- Determine accident
- Take correct preventative
- Control losses which directly impact the bottom
- Increase accountability throughout the

Procedure

Investigate as soon as possible

- Accident scene is fresh,
- Injured party and witnesses’ memory

Document

Preserve equipment/machinery

- Until it can be inspected for engineering evidence of malfunction, faulty design, improper use, etc. (subrogation evidence). Take photos when

Key words for the process:

WHO – WHAT – WHEN – WHERE – WHY – HOW

Root Causes

It’s important to remember when investigating an accident that effective permanent corrective action measures involve analysis and upgrade of process, as well as management procedures. See chart below for some of the areas to assess.

Reason for Accident		Corrective Process
Procedures	• None developed • Developed but not followed • Developed but not understood • Developed but not accurate	• Procedure developed • Employee instruction
Hazard	• Created by external factors • Created by co-worker • Documented but not repaired • Identified but accepted • Unidentified • Repaired by deficient • repair	• Supervisory recognition • Supervisory intervention
Facilities/Equipment	• Faulty equipment • Poor design • Corrosion/wear • Ergonomic factors • Facility layout • New equipment • Change in process/materials	• Equipment maintenance • Equipment repair • Employee instruction • Supervisory recognition
Communication	• Insufficient planning • Communication planning • Confusion	• Formal planning process • Verification of communication

In a Hurry	• Supervisor implied need • Employee perceived need • Friendly competition • External factors • Workload too heavy • Lack of teamwork • Rushes/Deadlines • Equipment failure	• Supervisor intervention
Training	• Insufficient training • Circumstances not addressed • Tools used incorrectly	• Formal training process • Proficiency training
Other Factors	• Weather/ Temperature • Long work hours • Physical overexertion • Personal protective equipment • Noise • Visibility	• Supervisory recognition • Supervisory intervention