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.

<u>Purpose</u>

- 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 developedEmployee instruction
Hazard	 Created by external factors Created by co-worker Documented but not repaired Identified but accepted Unidentified Repaired by deficient repair 	Supervisory recognitionSupervisory 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

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