

Safety Management

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Abstract

Safety Management System (SMS) is a systematic approach to manage safety, including the necessary organizational structures, accountabilities, policies and procedures. As per International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements, service providers are responsible for establishing safety management system, which is accepted and overseen by their State.

Safety Management System, Process Safety Management are recent introductions to our efforts to improve the Environment, Health and Safety. Safety Management Systems were developed based on the concepts of systematic improvement used in Total Quality Management, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and Dr. Deming's teachings. As these scientific systems were being implemented in the early nineties, some companies set goals to reduce the number of accidents by 90% in ten years. To accomplish these accident reduction goals, companies had to improve their accident and incident investigation processes to reduce the number of repeat accidents. Therefore, many adopted advanced root cause analysis and techniques were used as part of their Safety Management System.

Key Words: Safety Management, Health And Safety, Adopted.

Introduction

Safety management means the management functions connected with the carrying on of an industrial undertaking that relate to the safety of personnel in the undertaking, including – (a)

the planning, developing, organizing and implementing of a safety policy; and (b) the measuring, auditing or reviewing of the performance of those functions.

Construction work is a dangerous land-based job. It includes building houses, roads, workplaces and repairs and maintains infrastructures. This work includes many hazardous task and conditions such as working with height, excavation, noise, dust, power tools and equipment. The most common fatalities are caused by the **fatal four**. Construction work has been increasing as the result occupational fatalities have increased. Occupational fatalities are individuals that pass way while on the job or performing work related tasks.

In a high-hazard industry like construction, safety is an investment that provides real benefits. A safe work environment helps to keep skilled employees on the job and projects on track by reducing accidents that result in injuries and schedule delays, while also reducing the risks of litigation and regulatory action. A strong safety record enhances a company's reputation, makes it more competitive. Fostering a successful safety culture, however, is a company-wide effort that requires commitment and participation from the chief executive to project managers, superintendents, foremen and individual workers on the job site. That commitment should extend to the selection of subcontractors who also embrace a strong safety ethic.

Safety should be part of the process right from the very beginning. In working toward establishing a safer workplace, construction companies can tap the extensive knowledge of risk management experts who are well versed in their industry.

Ideas for Job Site Safety

Start at the top

Safety on the job site starts in the executive suite. To have a real impact on workers, safety has to become a core value of the organization. Chief executives should instill the responsibility of safety in every level of management. Too often it is shunted off to the on-site safety manager or corporate safety director. Project executives and managers, superintendents

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and foremen should be required to take the necessary training, they should be well versed in accident investigation, substance abuse, conflict resolution, pre-job safety planning, loss analysis and managing subcontractors. A project specific safety manual that outlines safety expectations and criteria should be given to each subcontractor. In addition, subcontractors should be required to submit their own project specific safety plan to identify the scope of their work, how the hazards will be mitigated and what measures they will take to provide a safe work environment.

Prequalify Subcontractors for Safety

Companies routinely pre-qualify subcontractors for experience, qualification and financial strength, but safety history and performance should also be criteria. To evaluate subcontractor safety performance, companies should review their experience modification rates, their Bureau of Labor Statistics recordable and lost time incident rates. The pre-qualification of subcontractors should not stop with safety history and performance. It should include a review of the subcontractor's own safety culture and how the company incorporates safety into its day-to-day operation. Subcontractors are responsible for the safety and health of their employees, but also need to ensure they perform their work in a manner that protects the general public.

Train Workers for Safety

Workers need to be trained to properly use a variety of safety equipment, such as fall arrest systems, and they need to know the appropriate regulations. Orientation shouldn't be limited to new hires. The company should provide orientation specific to each project. The orientation should include an overview of the project, an in-depth review of the safety requirements and expectations, evacuation plans and procedures, disciplinary actions, substance abuse testing policy and fall management procedures and requirements.

Evaluate Each Project Phase for Safety

Planning for safety is a continual process. A job safety task analysis should be performed to make sure that the appropriate work and safety equipment is on hand so that workers aren't tempted to make do with what may be inadequate equipment or take chances that will endanger

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their safety. The analysis should include the specific aspects of the work at hand, identification of potential exposures, controls to eliminate the exposures and the necessary safety equipment to perform the work properly. The analysis should be submitted by the supervisor before the start of work and reviewed by the project manager or superintendent along with the supervisor. Supervisors should review it with the crew beforehand. All subcontractors should follow this procedure.

Make Safety an Everyday Topic

When foremen gather workers at the beginning of a shift to talk about the day's work, they should review the hazards involved and the safety controls, and make sure that the workers have the right protective gear and that all safety concerns are addressed. If the job changes during the day, construction managers or contractors should review the changes in terms of safety. Weekly meetings with superintendents and subcontractor field management personnel to discuss production-related topics should include a review of any accidents, near misses or safety lapses as well as safety issues related to the coming work. Regular inspections are probably the most effective management tool for dealing with the basic root causes of accidents, such as worn equipment, misplaced tools or equipment or unsafe actions by workers.

Review Accidents and Near Misses

Companies should start with the mindset that accidents are not inevitable. In the event that there is an accident, the facts and circumstances should be reviewed to identify root causes so that corrective action can be taken and future incidents can be prevented. The same attention should be paid to near misses that had the potential to become serious accidents. Regular accident review meetings between field managers and executives send a clear message that safety should be paramount. To help manage safety, each project executive should be provided detailed loss runs and claim information. Project executives should participate in claims review meetings with insurers to get first-hand information on the claims in their projects. This helps to make sure the project manager understands the financial implications associated with accidents on the projects as well as the impact on the company's insurance costs.

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Work with Your Insurer and Risk Management Experts

Proactive companies take a collaborative approach to safety with risk management experts and their insurers at every step of the project. Companies should look to their insurers as a resource with substantive expertise in risk management, engineering protocols and procedures to help make their own safety efforts even more robust. An insurer can bring insights learned from different industries and different regions of the country. They can identify best practices for projects in different areas and expand on best practices which might be considered.

Toward Zero Injuries

When a construction company succeeds in building a strong culture of safety, it becomes a core value for every employee. A strong safety culture burnishes the company's reputation, which is one of the most valuable assets for any business, and plays an essential role in its long-term success. A safer company suffers fewer losses, enjoys lower costs, becomes a more competitive bidder and makes it more attractive to potential clients and insurers. But safety is a job that never ends. The construction industry is always adopting new methods, new equipment and new machinery. Safety has to continually adapt to the new ways that workers are performing their jobs. At the end of the day, every company wants every worker to go home safe at night. The ultimate goal should be zero injuries. By partnering with the right insurer, companies can move closer to that goal.

Impacts of Good Safety Management

- It improves employee performance. A (good SMS) safe environment encourages employees to be more productive. Employees are more productive, conscientious and have less absenteeism in a good working environment
- It improves regulatory compliance of workers i.e. workers will act in accordance with safety rules and regulations
- Costs from injuries and illnesses are reduced. A good SMS in an organization will prevent/reduce illnesses and injuries
- It encourages good relations between employees in an organization.

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- The potential for reduced insurance and liability costs

Suggestions

Safety has to be ensured at each phase of job.

- Workers should be trained to use safety equipment.
- Safe work environment enables to reduce accidents and keep skilled employees on the job.

Conclusion

Construction work has been increasing in developing and undeveloped countries over the past few years. So it is necessary to have safe constructions sites within the field of construction. Once a projects starts, safety should be a part of employee’s job every day. A strong safety program benefits everyone, the company, the employees, stakeholders and regulators.

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