



Alabama Trucking Association
Workers Compensation Fund

alliance

An OSHA Cooperative Program

A Newsletter For Our Members Where Safety Is Our Primary Concern!

September
2017

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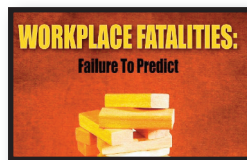
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Preventing Serious Injuries & Fatalities

Over the past decade, the rates of serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs) have declined at a much slower rate than less-serious workplace injuries. This problem should raise serious questions and implications for safety leaders at all organizational levels, from the first level of supervision to the senior-most executive and board member, and to the labor leader and government regulator.



The old paradigm was to treat all injuries the same and investigate all of them and work on common root causes across the entire organization. The new paradigm says, 'Let's focus on events that get reported that have potential to be life-altering or fatal, and let's investigate those with potential.'

To identify and target serious injury or fatality potential, safety professionals and other leaders need to involve their workers. That means leaving the office and meeting the workers in their environment for an honest conversation about the hazards they face. Are those workers getting enough support from each other and management to stay safe? What additional protections, if any, do they need? The worker needs to feel comfortable and understand that he or she won't get in trouble for pointing out possible breakdowns in the system.

Building positive relationships can empower workers to prevent hazards ahead of time or, if necessary, in real time.

To target and reduce SIF exposure, safety pros need to work up and down the organizational ladder. They need workers to report exposures without fear of retaliation, and they need to persuade the executive team that a SIF prevention program is necessary and important for keeping workers safe.

Gather data on cases within your organization that have SIF potential. Show those cases to the leadership team and explain why it's urgent to determine SIF exposure and reduce that figure as much as possible.

Employers of all sizes and in all industries may

benefit from the proactive thinking that SIF prevention programs emphasize. Leaders also must be cognizant that such programs need to be revisited on a monthly or quarterly basis and fine-tuned depending on new hazards that emerge.

Companies that track SIFs find that it represents a clear line of differentiation from other types of injuries. Losing one's life, sight or mobility, or other injuries of similar magnitude are different from injuries that heal without life-changing consequences. All managers want to reduce and eliminate every type of injury, but consideration should be given to the allocation of safety resources specifically targeted to the reduction of potential for serious and fatal events.

Unless this issue is addressed, the pattern described earlier—of flat or no improvement in the occurrence SIFs—will likely continue.

Lack of visibility makes it unlikely that the factors underlying SIFs will be addressed effectively. The kinds of activities most organizations are doing presently will not provide the visibility needed to address the issues underlying SIFs. Doing more of the same will not reduce SIFs.



The new paradigm recognizes that a different strategy is required to prevent SIFs. Intervention is needed to change the course and direction of how resources are used in order to affect SIF exposures. The core objective of such an intervention is to identify and remediate precursors, not as a onetime activity but as an ongoing process. How each organization approaches the specifics will depend on many factors, including level of safety maturity, strength of existing safety systems, organizational ability to undertake change, and strength of safety leadership and culture.

Key points

About 21 percent of all OSHA recordable events have the potential to lead to serious injuries or fatalities.

To reduce the potential, experts recommend that safety professionals get out in the field and talk to workers about the hazards they encounter.

Safety professionals need to secure leadership commitment before launching an effective SIF prevention program, experts say.



Alabama Trucking Association Workers' Compensation Fund 2017 Loss Control/Claims Seminars

Please join us for one of our Loss Control/Claims Seminars to meet professionals who manage/consult for your workers' compensation program. We will explore new opportunities and seek solutions to help you better understand your WC program.

These Seminars are FREE and open to all ATA members and ATA WC Fund Members. Topics to be addressed include: DOT/FMCSA update, MVA Fatalities, OSHA - Hazard Recognition/Abatement, Safety Culture and Claims reporting/management.

Seminar #1 (Birmingham) - Pelham Civic Complex, Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Seminar #2 (Montgomery) – ATAWCF Building, Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Seminar #3 (Mobile) – Five Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center, Thursday, November 2, 2017

Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8:00am. Lunch will be provided by the ATA WC Fund. Each Seminar will conclude by 2:00pm with questions and answers session.

All personnel attending must be registered with the ATA Work Comp Fund. To sign up, either contact your Regional Loss Control Consultant or you may call the office at 334-834-7911.

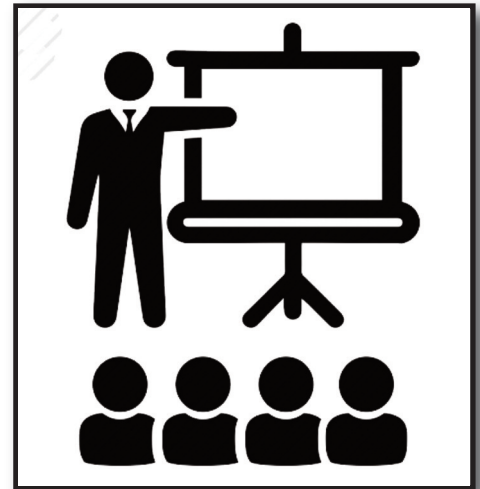
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This is a great opportunity to learn key elements in creating a culture of accident prevention that will help reduce your work comp losses. We look forward to seeing you at one of the Loss Control Seminars.