



Employee Safety and Health, 24/7

Your workforce is your greatest resource. In order to protect your employees-both on and off the job-safety and health must be considered a priority.

In 2002, 4,900 American workers died and 3.7 million experienced disabling injuries in the workplace. Workers were at even greater risk outside of work, in their homes and communities, where 44,000 deaths and 7.1 million injuries occurred.

Organizations have made and continue to make significant strides in protecting workers while at work. However, as evidenced above, it's also necessary to focus, with the same resolve, on off-the-job employee safety and health.

Injury and illness adversely affect business operation, no matter when or where they occur. An incident suffered by an employee (or a member of their family) during non-work times results in virtually the same employer costs as an incident at work, including worker replacement, lost or slowed productivity, additional administrative expenditures, increased medical expenses/sick leave and decreased morale.

Although a challenge, it's important to take extra steps to incorporate off-the-job safety and health information, communication and training into your existing program. These initiatives will help reduce or eliminate injury and illness within your organization and community. The following are some ideas to consider:

- Encourage employees to take on-the-job safety practices and knowledge home with them.
- Offer comprehensive training that can be applied in all environments (CPR, first aid, defensive driving, etc.) and supply appropriate handouts.
- Make family safety and health a feature in corporate newsletters and other communications vehicles.
- Send safety information directly to employee homes. Incorporate subscriptions to safety and health newsletters and periodicals in your employee benefit package.
- Where possible, allow employees the opportunity to borrow PPE and other safety equipment for use at home.
- Create a library of safety tips (home, leisure activities, seasonal/holiday activities, driving, proper cell phone usage, etc.). Make information available to employees. Post topics on bulletin boards, create flyers, or include as paycheck stuffers.
- Lead by example. Follow appropriate safety precautions at work, on the road and at home. Share your knowledge of safety information and practices with those in your community.

For more information:

National Safety Council Website

- Research & Statistics, <http://www.nsc.org/lrs/statstop.htm>
- Library, <http://www.nsc.org/library.htm>
- Home & Community Page, <http://www.nsc.org/home.htm>
- Driver Safety Topics Page, <http://www.nsc.org/issues/drivsafe.htm>
- National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, <http://www.nsc.org/necas.htm>

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