

Every occupation has inherent hazards which if manifested can give rise to poor safety and health conditions. It is desirable therefore, that employers and employees co-operate in the bid to adhere to sound safety, health and hygiene principles. Failure to achieve such co-operation can result in costs at the personal, domestic and corporate levels as well as to the society.

Useful Definitions

Occupational safety:

covers all activities involved in the development and implementation of programs for safety promotion, preventive measures and hazard and risk identification at the workplace.

Occupational health:

deals with the health of the working population in relation to work and the work environment. Occupational health is not only concerned with diseases and poor working conditions, but also with health promotion and the quality of work and life.

Accident:

a sudden and unintentional occurrence causing bodily harm or injury.

Notifiable Accident:

as stated by the Accident and Occupational Diseases (Notification) Act, is an accident arising out of and in the course of employment, which causes loss of life or disablement for more than three (3) days.

Summary of Costs

Personal Costs

- damage to or loss of part of the body
- physical and mental suffering
- loss of income (long or short term)
- medical expenses
- loss of life

Domestic Costs

- reduced family income
- possible legal fees
- psychological effects on family members

Corporate / Business Costs:

- Lost time as a result of :
work stoppage
 - to offer help
 - out of sympathy and curiosity
 - to conduct investigations
selection and training of a suitable replacement
- damage to equipment, tools and property
- loss of product or material

Corporate / Business Costs cont'd:

- disruption of flow of production and consequent inability to meet deadline/demands
- legal fees and compensation
- cost of training the replacement,
- weakened morale in workplace
- continuation of overhead costs (utilities, supplies) per injured worker

Social Costs

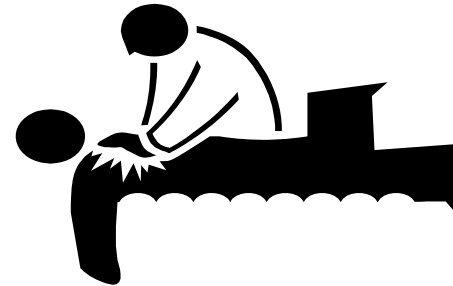
- strain on facilities and personnel of national health services
- loss of skills and services of the injured person (maybe temporary or permanent)
- use of resources of the legal system

*The risk of occupational accidents and diseases increases in the absence of adequate provisions for safety and health.
The costs associated with such occurrences may have severe consequences for the individual, the enterprise and the society.*

Labour Department

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SECTION

The Impact of Workplace Accidents



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