

SAFETY BULLETIN

Ensure your Team is Prepared!

Safety Inspections Are Important

FOCUS: OSHA requires most companies have a safety committee when there are more than ten employees. Effective use of safety committees can eliminate hazards and reduce injuries.

CHALLENGE

Safety activities utilize more and more of our department personnel's time. With limited resources, it is difficult to satisfy the increasing regulatory requirements. As part of our on-going safety commitment, safety committees have been developed as an integral part of our program. This committee requires additional meetings and can appear to further stretch our limited resources!

Many people question the "value" safety committees really add to the on-going department's performance in the area of safety! If this is a question being asked, it's because the safety committee is being under utilized. A properly trained and empowered safety committee can perform a myriad of functions to support department activities.

It should act as an internal consultant to our district. The safety committee can assist with a variety of activities that can include inspecting the workplace for hazards and helping eliminate them. These inspections can also serve as audits of our policy and procedures. Safety committee inspections should assist with development of data relating to accidents to assist the analysis process.

The safety committee can often be the vehicle for "continuous improvement" activities. Let's make sure our safety committee gets the support needed to make meaningful contributions to our district! The greater the involvement the better for all concerned!

DISCUSSION

- Does our department have a safety committee?
- How effective is it, does it make a difference?
- Do committee members conduct monthly station inspections?
- How are the recommendations followed up to ensure corrections are made?
- Do employees make suggestions to the committee?
- Is the safety committee involved in the accident review process?
- How does management support the suggestions made by the safety committee?
- What can we do to make our safety committee more effective?

The greatest asset of the fire service is our people; protect them!

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See more Safety Bulletins online: www.washingtonfirechiefs.org and be prepared!