Risk Assessment Evaluation and Control

Lecture Title: Introduction to Risk Assessment

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Undergraduate Diploma in
Occupational Health and Safety

Welcome & Introductions

Please introduce yourself by sharing:

1. Your full name (and how you prefer to be addressed)
2. Your academic or professional background
3. Your current role, major, or area of study
4. One professional interest or career goal
5. What you hope to gain from this course

Risk Assessment

What is a Risk Assessment?

- How would you define an Occupational Risk Assessment in your own words?

Class Discussion

Risk Assessment

What is a Risk Assessment?

- Why do you think Occupational Risk Assessment is important in your field of study or work?

Class Discussion

Risk Assessment

Definition as per European Communities (1996).
Risk Assessment at Work:

"A risk assessment is a systematic examination of all aspects of the work undertaken to consider what could cause injury or harm, whether the hazards could be eliminated, and if not what preventive or protective measures are, or should be, in place to control the risks...(3.1)"

Risk Assessment

Definition of Risk Assessment

The formal process of **identifying preventive** and **protective measures** by **evaluating the risks arising from a hazard**, taking into account the adequacy of any existing **controls**, and deciding whether or not the risk is acceptable.

The purpose of a risk assessment is to make sure that **no-one** gets hurt or becomes ill as a result of your work activities.

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Risk Assessment

Put simply, a risk assessment entails:

- Identifying what could cause **HARM** to yourself and others.
- Deciding if you have done enough, or need to do more to protect yourself and others.
- The purpose of a risk assessment is to make sure that **no-one** gets hurt or becomes ill as a result of your work activities.

Risk Assessment

Put simply, a risk assessment entails:

- Most employers carry out their own informal risk assessments on a daily basis, looking at workplace hazards and deciding what needs to be done to control them.
- However, risk assessments should be carried out on a more **formal** basis by **searching for** all significant workplace hazards, evaluating them in a systematic fashion, recording the findings of the assessments and reviewing them at a later date.

Risk Assessment

Put simply, a risk assessment involves:

- Identify hazards, evaluating risks, and implementing controls to reduce them.
- When approached logically and systematically, risk assessments are straightforward to complete.
- They form the foundation of an effective health and safety management system.

Risk Assessment

- There are many ideas and methods in circulation about how to carry out an assessment, varying from the extremely complex to crude and simple systems (*more about methodology later*).
- Each of these systems has their place in the process of risk assessment according to the needs of the employer.

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Risk Assessment

All methods of assessment rely on the person carrying out the assessment (the assessor) making a **subjective decision** as to the **level of risk** and **ranking that risk** according to a simple scoring system. This will allow both the severity of the risk to be assessed and for risk controls to be prioritized.

Risk Assessment

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- The amount of effort placed into health and safety in the workplace should be based on the risks associated with the work.
- Greater effort should be placed into controlling those work activities that create the greater risk.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

OHS is about preventing people from being harmed by work or becoming ill by taking the right precautions and providing a satisfactory working environment. (HSE 2013)

Managing Workplace Health and Safety

Three Main Reasons:

1. **MORAL Reason:**
   - Statistically: 4% of the world's gross domestic product is lost each year through the cost of injury, death absence, etc.
   - Not everything is reported or recorded, the real figures are almost certainly higher.
   - People can get killed and injured in gruesome ways or suffer terrible diseases that have a massive impact not only on them, but also their **dependents, families, friends and colleagues.**

This suffering is **MORALLY** unacceptable.

Moral Reason: "**It's the right thing to do".** It Is **RIGHT** and **PROPER** that workers go to work to earn a living and return home in the same state, NOT suffering from ill health or serious physical injury.

- **PEOPLE** expect this as a fundamental Right**. WORKERS** expect it. **SOCIETY** expects it.

Managing Workplace Health and Safety

Three Main Reasons:

2. FINANCIAL Reason:

- Personal injury accidents, worker ill health and property damage cost money.
- When an accident occurs, the organization will face both **DIRECT** and **INDIRECT** costs:

DIRECT costs	INDIRECT costs
The measurable costs arising directly from the accident. **Example of direct costs:** • First –aid treatment • Workers sick pay • Repairs to, or replacement of, damaged equipment and buildings. • Lost of damaged product. • Lost production time while dealing with the injury.	Arise indirectly as a consequence of the event. Indirect costs are often difficult to quantify precisely and may be hard to identify: **Example of indirect costs:** • Reduction in staff morale (which impacts on productivity, quality and efficiently) • General difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff as a result of the accident • Loss of goodwill of customers following delays in production and fulfilling orders. • Damage to public image and business reputation. • Damage to industrial relations, perhaps leading to industrial action (e.g. strikes).

Managing Workplace Health and Safety

Three Main Reasons:

2.**Financial** Continue…

- **INSURED and UNINSURED** Costs **Reason:**
  - The importance of INSURANCE is to cover some of the losses that might foreseeably occur to an organization.
  - It is also a legal requirement, INSURANCE may provide some comfort to workers, knowing that in the event of an injury the employer is insured to compensate them financially.

Insured Costs	Uninsured Costs
• Damage to plant, buildings and equipment. • Compensation paid to workers • Medical costs. • Legal costs associated with a legal claim for compensation.	• Production delays or down time. • Loss of raw materials due to accidents. • Accident investigation time. • Criminal fines and legal costs • Sick pay for injured workers. • Overtime to make up for lost production. • Hiring and training new employees. • Loss of business reputation

Managing Workplace Health and Safety

Three Main Reasons:

- **LEGAL** Reason:
  - The legal standards place a duty on the employer to ensure that workplaces, work activities and work equipment and substance are, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risk to health.
  - Failure to comply with the legal standards may lead to enforcement section by the authorities or prosecution through a country's criminal courts. Successful prosecution usually results in a fine, but may result in imprisonment.
  - Work-related injuries may result in compensation being paid to the victim, In some countries this is achieved by legal action through the civil routs, whilst other countries may have worker compensation schemes for this purpose.

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