

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION, ANALYSIS, AND COSTS

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Accident Investigation

Successful accident prevention requires a minimum of four fundamental activities.

- 1 A study of all working areas to detect and eliminate or control physical hazards which contribute to accidents
- 2 A study of all operating methods and practices
- 3 Education, instruction, training, and discipline to minimize human factors which contribute to accidents
- 4 For cause analyses, a thorough investigation of at least every accident which results in a disabling injury to determine contributing circumstances

The fourth activity, cause analysis, is a secondary defense against hazards which may have been overlooked in the first three

In connection with this activity, an investigation should be made of every accident which results in a disabling injury. Accidents resulting in nondisabling injuries, or no injuries, should be investigated if time and

facilities permit, if there is frequent recurrence of certain types of nondisabling injuries, or if the frequency of accidents is high in certain areas or operations

Purpose of investigation

Accident investigation is of such prime importance in the safety program that both top management and the persons running the safety program must protect its integrity as a device for preventing accidents. Investigations must be fact finding, not fault finding. Otherwise, they may do more harm than good.

This is not to say that responsibility may not be fixed where personal failure has caused injury, or that such persons should be excused from the consequences. However, the investigation itself is concerned only

This chapter was revised by H. C. Miller, based upon reviews by selected members of the National Safety Council.