

SHOP SAFETY—THE LOSS CONTROL APPROACH

SUMMARY

“Loss Control” is the phrase insurers and safety specialists use to describe effective management and prevention of losses of all types within your business. A loss control program focuses not only on employee safety but also on fire prevention, avoiding production delays, equipment failures and so on.

WHO MAKES IT GO?

Make safety your business and relate it to your entire operation. Carefully consider doing the following: A successful loss control program cannot succeed without constant leadership.

- Establish a broad statement of policy on safe practices and conditions for your organization.
- Give responsibility and authority for loss control activities to a specific person.
- Periodically review results of your loss control activities.
- Communicate your reactions to your organization.
- Personally participate in safety activities and see to it that unsafe conditions and acts are corrected.

WAYS TO MAKE IT GO

Hazards can be detected and faulty work practices and procedures changed in order to achieve effective loss control. Regardless of the size of an organization, a specific person should have the responsibility and authority to see that the job is done properly. If work is done properly, costs will be reduced through less waste, proper maintenance of equipment, and reduced injury potential to people. Consider the following:

- Physical inspection of your operations and premises on a regular basis.
- Study work practices and determine the best way to perform your work.
- Set up supervisory and employee educational programs.
- Investigate cause of losses and suggest corrective action to management, supervisors and employees.

- Regularly analyze trends in losses and communicate the results.
- Consider an award program that introduces competition.

LOSS CONTROL TRAINING

Supervisory and Employee

Unsafe acts, or human failures, are the cause of 85% to 95% of accidents. These “accidents” result in either ruined material, machines or equipment, or injured people.

Training and education is a way to reduce or eliminate these loss situations. Through training and education, new employees learn the correct way to do a job. Carefully consider doing the following:

- Establish work practices and rules.
- Establish a job training program.
- Educate each new employee on loss control.
- Teach supervisors the techniques of training employees.
- Use educational materials such as posters, handouts, signs, audio tapes, video tapes, and film.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Maintaining Safe Working Conditions

Periodic inspections of your premises for physical hazards and prompt actions for control will ensure safe working conditions. Consider the following partial check list:

- Complete eye protection program introduced.
- Eye protection used by all people in plant.
- Cutting oils, flammable liquids and other hazardous substances controlled.
- Material handling devices adequate.
- Tooling properly stored.
- Controls for material handling equipment.

- Proper guarding for power machinery—press, cutting, grinding, shaping, boring, milling, etc.
- Noise exposure.
- Dermatitis exposure.
- Ventilation.
- Aisle space.
- Fire protection.

ACCIDENT RECORDS

In order to pinpoint the trouble areas, an immediate detailed investigation should be made of every accident. The cause should be determined and corrective action taken to prevent similar losses.

It is important that a report is prepared even if no injury resulted. The important thing is to remove the exposure to loss and reduce the possibility of injury to an employee, and damage to machines or materials.

Accident reports are worthless unless a periodic analysis is made. Such analysis will guide corrective actions.

An accident investigation form should be used. They should be distributed to your supervisors with instructions for completion and use.

It should be noted that the difference between a serious and a non-serious accident is often merely blind luck. However, the underlying causes are generally the same.

MEDICAL AND FIRST AID

Immediate first aid and proper medical treatment of minor cuts and bruises and major serious injuries may prevent infections, permanent disability or even death. Consider the following:

- Provide adequate first aid facilities. Your loss control consultant will be pleased to advise you on what supplies are normally appropriate.
- Job placement physical examinations will assist you in having each person work according to his physical capabilities.

Note: Refer to the table of contents for other BMAs that address safety issues, not covered in TC06.

<p>This BMA was prepared by NTMA's Technical Department.</p>
