# Incident Investigations

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### The "A" Word...

### Accident versus Incident



### Why Do We Investigate?

Determine why the failure(s) occurred
 Fact finding, NOT fault finding

# **Iceberg Theory**



### 10 Axioms of Industrial Safety -H.W. Heinrich

- 1. Injuries result from a series of preceding factors.
- 2. Accidents occur as the result of a physical hazard or an unsafe act.
- 3. Most accidents are the result of unsafe behavior.
- 4. Unsafe acts and hazards do not always result in immediate accidents and injuries.
- 5. Understanding why people commit unsafe acts helps to establish guidelines for corrective actions.

- 6. The severity of the injury is largely fortuitous and the accident that caused it is preventable.
- The best accident prevention techniques are analogous to best quality / productivity techniques.
- 8. Management should assume safety responsibilities.
- **9**. The supervisor is the key person in the prevention of industrial accidents.
- **10**. Cost of accidents include both direct costs and indirect costs.

### Heinrich Continued...

The Origins of Accidents
88% - unsafe acts of persons
10% - unsafe physical conditions
2% - AOG

• Domino Theory



# **Multicausal Theory**

- Two contributing factors of all incidents:
  - Immediate
    - Directly associated with the incident
  - Basic
    - Deficiencies associated with the management system

### Cole's Law

### • Always thinly slice cabbage



### When Do We Investigate?

- The key difference in an incident which results in an injury and one that doesn't is often *luck!*
- Investigate every incident, no matter how small



### Who Should Investigate?

- Supervisor
- Safety Professional
- Safety Committee (peer investigation)
- Training, training, training...



# 8 Steps to a Thorough Investigation

- **1**. Prepare for the Investigation
- 2. Gather the Facts
- 3. Analyze the Facts
- 4. Develop Conclusions

- 5. Write a Report
- 6. Recommend Corrective Actions
- 7. Correct the Situation
- 8. Follow-Up on Recommendations

# Prepare for the Investigation

- 1. Establish a notification system
- 2. Identify / establish emergency services
- 3. Establish emergency shutdown procedures
- 4. Training
  - 1. How to conduct an investigation
  - 2. Identifying immediate and basic causes
  - 3. Documentation
- 5. Written program and report form
- 6. Incident investigation toolbox

### Gather the Facts

### <u>Immediately</u>

- Identify and interview witnesses
- <sup>°</sup>View the area
- <sup>•</sup> Take photographs, create drawings
- <sup>•</sup> Collect evidence
  - Noise levels, weather conditions, light conditions, etc.
- Gather documentation

### Analyze the Facts

• Be sure the information accurate

### **Develop Conclusions**

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- All conclusions must be made on fact, not speculation

# **Conclusions Continued...**

- Immediate Causes
  - PPE
  - Bafe Work Practices
  - <sup>•</sup>Guarding
  - •Housekeeping
  - Equipment Failure

# **Conclusions Continued...**

### Basic Causes

- Knowledge and/or Training
- <sup>•</sup> Supervision
- Engineering Practices
- PPE
- Maintenance Programs
- Equipment Selection
- Feedback Systems
- Practices and/or Procedures

### Write a Report

- Standardized report
- Everything must be supported by fact and evidence
- Clear, concise, free from extraneous information
- Include photographs, drawings, witness statements, etc.

### **Recommend Corrective Actions**

- All basic causes must have corrective actions
  - Management needs to assign a person responsible and establish a measurable timeframe (deadline) for completion

### Correct the Situation

# Follow-Up on Recommendations

Safety Action Items

			Responsible	Target Completion	Actual Completion
AI #:	<b>Priority:</b>	Safety Action Item:	Employee:	Date:	Date:
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A=Emergency - Will Cause A Loss If Not Corrected

B=Needs Corrected Immediately But Not An Emergency

C=Cannot Cause Damage Or Injury But Still Needs Corrected

### Step 9 - Bonus Round!

• Incident Analysis and Data Collection



#### **Types of Injuries**





### Questions?

### • Thank you for your attention.

