

Helping Ohioans with
Healthcare Benefit
Choices



Incident/accident investigation, a tool for prevention

When an injury or illness occurs, it may be a symptom that something is wrong in your organization's safety process. A thorough, well-documented incident/accident investigation will identify this problem and lessen the chance of its recurrence.

The principal investigator for all injuries and work-related incidents and accidents is the employee's supervisor. The supervisor understands the process and knows the injured worker. The safety process coordinator is available to assist the supervisor with the investigation of the incident that led up to the injury or illness.

The key to good injury and illness investigations is having qualified investigators. The BWC Division of Safety & Hygiene has resources that can help your supervisors improve their investigative skills.

What injuries and illnesses should be investigated? At a minimum, all OSHA recordable injuries and illnesses should be investigated. Some employers also investigate near-miss incidents and frequently occurring first aid cases.

A basic injury and illness investigation includes:

- Care for the injured • Inspect the scene
- Interview witnesses and the injured employee
- Determine the causes of the injury or illness
- Identify corrective actions to prevent recurrence
- Complete a supervisor's accident investigation report

- Implement recommended corrective actions
- Follow-up periodically to ensure the problem has not re-surfaced

The safety process coordinator receives a copy of all supervisors' injury and illness investigation reports and reviews each one for quality and thoroughness. The safety process coordinator follows up to be sure the appropriate corrective action has been taken to prevent this injury or illness from happening again.

The safety process coordinator should be familiar with OSHA recordkeeping and injury and illness reporting requirements. These responsibilities can be delegated to a clerical person, but the safety process coordinator should train this person and conduct periodic audits to ensure required procedures are being followed.

The Division of Safety & Hygiene's safety, industrial hygiene and ergonomics specialists can help you develop effective strategies to make your workplace safer and healthier. They can visit your workplace or consult with you by telephone or email. These services are available for any private or public employer. BWC also offers specialized options for certain employers. You can request these services online at: info.bwc.ohio.gov or 1.800.644.6292

For more information, please contact Jim Wirth at 614.546.7331 or jim.wirth@sedgwick.com

Enrollment deadline approaching soon

The deadline to enroll in our workers' compensation group retrospective rating program is just around the corner! Make sure you choose our program administered by Sedgwick.

Enrollment paperwork was sent to you for our group retrospective rating program. The deadline to enroll in the program is quickly approaching. Don't miss out on your opportunity for significant premium savings!

- Group Retrospective Rating - Sedgwick must receive your enrollment by Friday, January 21, 2022.

Sedgwick is proud to deliver workers' compensation claims management and cost containment strategies to nearly 65,000 hard-working Ohio employers and have our endorsement.

Sedgwick has saved Ohio employers participating in group rating more than \$4 billion over the past ten years and Ohio employers participating in group retrospective rating have earned over \$630 million in refunds since implementation in 2009.

For more information, contact our Sedgwick program manager, Bob Nicoll at (330)418-1824 or robert.nicoll@sedgwick.com.

Time is running out! Get your paperwork in today!

Ohio Association of Health Underwriters

www.ohioahu.org

