



Health & safety tips for a secure work environment

Workplace safety is a critical topic every employer should make a priority of. More than 900 workers report an injury every day in Canada, with more injuries left unreported. Almost three workers are killed on the job every day.

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Tips for a secure work environment.

Your premises can pose a hazard to your employees. Conducting a safety audit is crucial to identify potential gaps in workplace safety and consequently correct any weaker safety points.

Why should you create a secure work environment?

Creating safe and secure work environments contributes to the success of your company in numerous ways.

- Improved productivity. Employees absent due to injury cannot contribute to the success of the company.
- Improved engagement. Employees are more engaged when the company is concerned for their well-being, and engaged employees perform better.
- Protection of property. Accidents do not always stop at a worker's injuries. They can damage equipment and facilities, destroy data and more. Safety protocols protect your investments and keep them productive.
- Protection of the environment. Accidental release of chemicals can damage the surrounding community, homes and businesses alike.
- Avoidance of litigation. Accidents can lead to companies attending court, costing time and money.
- Lower costs. Serious accidents can incur considerable costs stemming from equipment repair, environmental cleanup, litigation and more.
- Protection of reputation. Accidents, particularly those involving people, can become a public relations nightmare. Protect your reputation by embracing a culture of safety in the workplace.
- Compliance with all relevant safety legislations. The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information system (WHMIS) is a prime example that should be adhered to.

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How to create a culture of safety?

Effective workplace safety is a complex process that goes well beyond audits and manuals. The culture of the business needs to adapt, stressing the importance of employee awareness and participation in keeping the work environment safe. This includes personnel who do not normally come in contact with dangerous materials.

1. Identify hazards and correct unsafe practices

The first step in creating a safe workplace is to thoroughly inspect the entire property and identify hazardous and potentially hazardous situations. This includes heavy machinery, hazardous chemicals, over-stacked goods, overused electrical outlets, and equipment maintenance efforts.

Safety culture embraces the elimination of all potential hazards, not just ones directly created by the business. Identify potential situations that could lead to criminal harm to employees. Unlit parking lots, employees working alone on the premises, and the transportation of valuable goods are only three examples of potential scenarios to consider.

Once this audit has been completed, address how current dangerous situations can be corrected and implement those solutions. Then determine the best practices for mitigating danger posed by potential hazards and codify them in safety manuals for all employees to refer to and follow.

2. Train employees and managers

Safety manuals are worthless if their content is not shared and completely understood. All employees and their managers should be educated in their work site's hazards and taught what the corresponding behavioural norms are.

Training elements should include:

- Identifying spaces and machines off limit to unauthorized employees
- Identifying hazards so employees can use an appropriate level of caution when interacting with them
- Emergency procedures relating to scenarios posed by the initial inspection

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- Location and use of emergency equipment such as eye wash stations, first aid kits and automated external defibrillators (AEDs)
- Safety equipment requirements
- Correct use of tools and equipment, emphasizing tools are not to be used incorrectly to make a task seemingly more efficient
- Proper maintenance of tools and equipment
- General safety practices as applicable to the business


Training should begin the first day an employee reports to work and should be continuous in nature through on-going training efforts.

3. Conduct visible safety audits

Conduct periodic, highly-visible safety audits so work teams understand the company takes safety seriously. Hold people accountable for lapses in safety protocol, and work with them to correct unacceptable situations while clarifying expectations for the future.

4. Report, investigate and document accidents

All accidents must be documented, investigated and, if necessary, reported to proper authorities. This allows the proper cause to be determined and addressed to avoid a repeat of the incident. Corresponding corrective action plans can be developed if necessary with little delay.



Every company should have in-depth safety protocols in place and encourage a culture of safety. Only through awareness, planning and preparation can we keep workplaces safe.

Learn more about how health and safety is embedded in GardaWorld's daily operations in this [Suncor case study](#).



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