

Employee Safety

Emerging Trends in Workplace Safety

Brought To You by Lydia Baugh, ISEA | Nov 06, 2017

Workplace safety is a growing concern among workers in the United States, primarily because of negative publicity that some incidents have garnered over the past several years. In 2014 alone, a total of 4,821 people were killed on the job, translating to 13 deaths every day.

Many business people believe that some disturbing emerging trends indicate that an increased demand for workplace safety professionals is necessary. These trends include an increased presence or possibly diagnosis of mental illness, problems with drug abuse and addictions, alcoholism and greater exposure to harmful chemical substances.

Traditionally, workplace deaths have been associated with accidents on the job. These have dropped significantly since 1970 but still remain a problem in certain high-risk industries. The four main causes of workplace deaths are falls, electrocutions, getting struck by an object or becoming caught between two objects.

The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) oversees requirements that make workplaces safer. The challenge, however, remains in changing the approach to workplace safety by emphasizing prevention instead of detection. By establishing positions such as a safety director, a safety manager and a safety coordinator, awareness of safety issues could increase at American companies, creating safer work environments.

To learn more about emerging trends in workplace safety, checkout the new infographic created by Eastern Kentucky University's Occupational Safety program below.

THE CURRENT STATE OF WORKPLACE SAFETY IN THE U.S.

In 2014, there were 4,820 worker fatalities in the U.S., or 13 deaths every day. From 1980 to 2014, there were a total of 288,000 nonfatal injury deaths, with an average of 16 deaths per day. The improvement in workplace safety is discouraging and the demand for workplace safety professionals is growing.

Emerging Trends Causing Increase in Workplace Safety Concerns

MENTAL ILLNESS

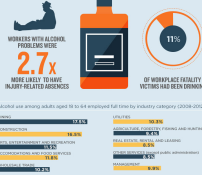


The new interactive with Disability Act requires provisions to be made for an employee with a mental illness. Provisions may include changes in duties, reduced work hours or permission to work from home.

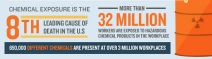
DRUG ABUSE/ADDICTIONS



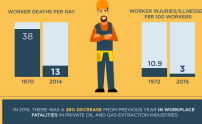
ALCOHOLISM



CHEMICAL PRESENCE



History of Industry-Specific Accidents



CONSTRUCTION'S FATAL FOUR



Workplace Safety Standards

SOME LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- SAFE WORK AND WORKFORCE OF HEALTHY AND SAFE EMPLOYEES.
- PROVIDE OF CLEAR SIGNALS, LABELS, SIGNS OR POSTERS TO WARN OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS.
- DO NOT TRAIN OR TEST EMPLOYEES IN HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS UNLESS EMPLOYEES ARE TRAINED TO HANDLE THEM.
- CONDUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS TO IDENTIFY HAZARDS AND CONTROL THEM.
- CONDUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS TO IDENTIFY HAZARDS AND CONTROL THEM.
- CONDUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS TO IDENTIFY HAZARDS AND CONTROL THEM.

Challenges for Workplace Safety

HISTORICALLY, THE VIEW OF WORKPLACE SAFETY HAS BEEN BASED ON DETECTION, NOT PREVENTION, AND THE BELIEF THAT "TACKLE" ACTIONS CAN HELP ACCIDENTS BY AVOIDING THEM.

METHODS OF IMPROVING WORKPLACE SAFETY:

- DO DESIGNER SAFETY CHECKS IN EARLY STAGES OF PROJECTS TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL HAZARDS.
- DO DESIGNER SAFETY CHECKS IN EARLY STAGES OF PROJECTS TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL HAZARDS.
- DO DESIGNER SAFETY CHECKS IN EARLY STAGES OF PROJECTS TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL HAZARDS.
- DO DESIGNER SAFETY CHECKS IN EARLY STAGES OF PROJECTS TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL HAZARDS.

WORKPLACE SAFETY JOB PROFILES

Job Profile	Salary Range	Key Responsibilities
SAFETY DIRECTOR	\$140,000 - \$170,000	Responsible for the development of a safety strategy and will be able to manage the department budget. They are also responsible for the development of safety programs and policies.
SAFETY MANAGER	\$80,000 - \$110,000	Responsible for developing and implementing standards to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
SAFETY COORDINATOR	\$40,000 - \$60,000	Responsible for executing the safety of employees. They are required to identify hazards and work-related situations as well as identify strategies to prevent them.

As workplace safety procedures increase, so do the opportunities to obtain safety certifications that can help you land a high-paying position.



Workplace safety professionals are in high demand. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the number of safety-related jobs will grow by 15% from 2014 to 2022. This growth is driven by the increasing complexity of workplace safety regulations and the need for organizations to ensure compliance. Professionals in this field play a critical role in preventing workplace accidents and protecting the health and well-being of employees.

