

# **A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program**

## **AWAIR**

- Standard:** Minnesota Statutes 182.653, A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program Minnesota Rules 5205.1500, Standard Industrial Classification List
- Summary:** The Minnesota Rules adopted in 1990, on federal recommended practices stemming from the Voluntary Protection Program. The rule was phased in, beginning with employers of over 50 in July, 1991, and extending to employers of less than 50 in July, 1993. Employers have six months to comply with the rule following inclusion on the SIC listing as published in 5205.1500.
- Coverage:** Employers listed in the Standard Industrial Classification List as published in 5205.1500. Federal agencies are exempt from coverage. This list is based on industries having an incident rate higher than 8.1 or a severity rate of more than 3.7. The average Minnesota rate list is reviewed and revised every 2 years by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

**Program Requirements:** The standard requires employers covered by the list to establish a written workplace accident and injury reduction program that promotes safe and healthful working conditions. The program requires:

- Clearly stated goals and objectives for meeting those goals.
- Detail how managers, supervisors and employees are responsible for implementing the program and how continued participation of management will be established, measured and maintained.
- The method(s) used to identify, analyze and control new or existing hazards, conditions and operations.
- How the plan will be communicated to all affected employees so they are informed of work related hazards and controls.
- How workplace accidents will be investigated and how corrective actions will be implemented.
- How safe work practices and rules will be enforced.

The program must be reviewed and documented annually and describe how procedures set forth in the program are met. This program is listed as a mandatory inspection item on the *MnOSHA Investigation Checklist*, Item 7D.

This program requires the development of a written safety program with:

- A Management Policy on Safety and Health
- Basic company oriented safety rules
- A hazard reporting policy/procedure
- Employee safety training
- Supervisory safety training
- Workplace safety hazard analysis (JHA's)

- **Labor/Management safety committees**

# A WORKPLACE ACCIDENT AND INJURY REDUCTION PROGRAM (AWAIR)

## **I. EXECUTIVE POLICY STATEMENT**

The safety of our employees is the foremost consideration in the operations of *(Company name)*. Accidents and injuries are not only costly to the company and the individual workers, but are often disastrous to the future of their families. *(Company name)* endeavors to provide our employees with a work place free of recognized health and safety hazards in an effort to conserve our human and financial resources. It is our company policy that everything within reason will be done to maintain a safe workplace for all employees. *(Company name)* supports the concept of returning injured employees to work in a productive position within our company at the earliest, medically possible opportunity. We believe that each employee has a place in our accident prevention program and is expected to cooperate fully in all measures taken to control and prevent losses.

## **II. SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The objective of our health and safety program is to reduce employee accidents, injuries and illnesses through:

- A. Maintenance of safe and healthful working conditions
- B. Insuring employee adherence to proper operating practices and procedures designed to prevent accidents, injuries and illnesses
- C. Observing, applying and complying with all Federal, State and Local safety regulations. Including, but not limited to:
  - Company Emergency Plan
  - Employee Right to Know Program
  - Personal Protective Equipment Standard
  - Lock out/Tag Out Program
  - Confined Space Entry Program
  - Hearing Conservation Program
  - Fall Protection Standard
  - Respirator Program
  - Ergonomics Program
  - Forklift Training Program
  - Drug Testing
  - Pre-employment Screening
- D. Ensuring that each employee is properly trained and instructed in job procedures prior to job assignments.
- E. Providing regular safety meetings for all employees as a means of obtaining new and updated information and training.
- F. Conducting periodic safety and fire inspections to identify potential workplace hazards.
- G. Conducting accident investigations to determine the cause of accidents and what actions are necessary to

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prevent future reoccurrence.

H. Implementing a management/labor safety committee.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WORKPLACE ACCIDENT AND INJURY CONTROL**

Although safety is the responsibility of every employee, the management of *(insert your company name)* is responsible for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of safety and health policies and procedures. These efforts will be in the form of employee education in safety and health practices, periodic safety inspections of the facilities and work sites and company safety meetings to review safety concerns and provide a forum for employee education. Specific responsibilities/accountabilities for safety are as follows:

*(Your company name)* has appointed *(insert name or title of individual)* to be the company **SAFETY COORDINATOR**.

The **Safety Coordinator** *(include the job description, modify as needed)* will:

- Establish and maintain a health and safety reference library.
- Keep apprised of changes in health and safety regulations.
- Establish safety rules.
- Conduct accident investigations and safety inspections.
- File appropriate reports concerning accidents or illnesses.
- Chair the Labor/management safety committee.
- Provide safety training programs to new and existing employees.
- Train managers and supervisors in their safety responsibilities.
- Accompany outside safety inspectors and consultants on tours of the facilities.
- Follow up on recommendations made by management, employees, the safety committee, outside inspectors and consultants.
- Maintain the accident record keeping systems and the OSHA logs.
- Maintain safety training records (date, topic, content, attendance).
- Audit company safety performance and the goals of the AWAIR program.

**Company Management** - is responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the health and safety program. Managers will assign specific safety responsibilities and establish accountability measures. They will provide the resources needed to comply with all safety regulations and programs. Management will insure that accident investigations are conducted after every reported incident, regardless of whether an illness or injury occurred. These incident reports will be analyzed by managers to determine corrective measures for preventing reoccurrence.

**Supervisors** - are responsible for overall safety of the specific operations of the company. Supervisors will consistently enforce all safety rules and ensure that safe practices are followed. In the event of an accident, supervisors will insure employees receive proper medical attention and that an accident report is completed. Supervisors will arrange for the correction of unsafe work conditions or procedures.

**Lead employees** *(Use if applicable)* - are responsible for acting as an extension of their supervisors in day to day activities. These responsibilities include participating in accident investigations, supervision of crew and conducting daily inspections of the work site conditions and equipment to insure safe practices and procedures are followed.

**Employees** - are responsible for day to day work activities and are responsible for complying with all safety

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regulations, company safety rules, following safe job procedures and notifying the lead worker or supervisor in the event of accident or unsafe work conditions.

#### **IV. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the safety committee is to assist in the detection and elimination of unsafe conditions and work procedures utilizing the following measures:

- A. The Safety coordinator will oversee the committee and maintain records of committee activities. Copies of minutes shall be provided to:
  - Management
  - Committee members
  - Employees by posting on bulletin boards
- B. Management representatives from each work area (i.e. office, warehouse, shop, etc.) should be present at each meeting. In the event they are unable to attend, an alternate should attend.
- C. Employees shall select fellow workers from each work area to represent them on the committee.
- D. The terms for all committee members should be no more than one year (with the exception of the safety coordinator). Should a vacancy occur a new member from the represented area shall be selected.
- E. The frequency of meetings shall be determined by the committee, but shall not be less than once per month.
- F. The date, hour and location of meetings shall be determined by the committee.
- G. The length of each meeting shall not exceed one hour.

#### **Scope of activities:**

- Conduct safety inspections
- Assist in accident investigations to uncover trends
- Review accident reports to determine means of eliminating accidents
- Accept and evaluate employee suggestions
- Promote and publicize safety
- Monitor safety program effectiveness
- Review job procedures and recommend improvements

#### **V. INSPECTIONS**

Safety inspections of *(your company name)* facilities will occur on a continual basis and may be performed by the safety coordinator, managers, supervisors, consultants, insurance agents, government representatives and/or the safety committee. These inspections will take the following form:

**Departmental or work site analysis** - inspections involve wall to wall inspection of a given department or work site and are normally performed in the presence of a departmental supervisor. These inspections will:

- Pay special attention to jobs with a history of accident and illnesses.
- Involve observations of every machine, operation, process and employee.
- Ask the question "what if".

**Critical Items** - involve the inspection of high hazard machinery, processes, or areas, with a critical eye for possible

sources of injury and methods of making these areas safer to employees.

**Special Purpose** - inspections will involve specialized tests or evaluations including, but not exclusive to:

- Air quality
- Noise
- Ventilation
- Ergonomics
- Other (*include special testing that may be required*)

## **VI. COMPANY SAFETY RULES AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Each employee of is part of the safety team. Coworkers are dependent on each person correctly performing their assigned duties. The keys to preventing accidents are following safety rules and procedures by all employees, the proper use of all machines, equipment and personal protective equipment. The following rules are provided to help employees perform their jobs safely and correctly. **Compliance with these rules is required to help prevent injuries to individual employees or others and to prevent damage to property.**

These rules apply throughout the company, although some departments, because of their specialized work, may have special, additional rules. Employees are required to read all safety rules, to know and follow them. A copy of the safety rules will be given to each employee and will be posted on company bulletin boards. New employees will receive a copy of the safety rules upon hire. Employees are asked to sign an acknowledgment form which states that they have read the safety rules and understand them. This form will be kept with the employees personnel file. Violations of safety rules or safety instructions may be followed by disciplinary action even though the particular violation did not result in an accident. These rules may not be completely detailed or all inclusive, therefore, whenever unique or unusual problems arise or more specific information is necessary employees ~ to contact their supervisor.

## **VII. SAFETY RULES**

*(Include your own specific, existing safety rules - the following are only **suggestions** to which you may add or delete as necessary. Additional specific rules may be required.)*

All Employees will:

- a. observe all company safety and health rules and apply the principles of accident prevention in all day to day activities.
- b. remain in their assigned departments unless called away by assigned duties or in the regular course of their employment.
- c. refrain from horseplay, throwing objects, scuffling, fooling around and/or distracting others in ways that may lead to injuries.
- d. obey all posted rules, warning signs and no smoking areas.
- e. read safety bulletins.
- f. walk at all times on company premises (no running) and take no unauthorized shortcuts.
- g. never report to work under the influence of alcoholic beverages or drugs nor shall any employee consume, purchase or possess these items while on company premises.
- h. never climb upon, through, under or around racking, pallets, trucks, equipment, forklifts, rail cars or other obstructions.

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- I. not attempt to lift or push objects that may be too heavy for them. Ask for help when needed. Learn to use correct lifting techniques to avoid strains: bend knees, keep upper body erect, push with the legs.
- j. advise fellow employees to work safely and warn workers who are working carelessly.
- k. remove jewelry, rings, bracelets and chains as these items may get caught in machinery or cause accidents
  - l. always use proper personal protective equipment for each assigned job.
- m. report hazards to lead workers or supervisors immediately.
- n. never wear frayed or loose clothing or unrestrained hair in areas where it may get caught in machinery. Employees with long hair must wear it up. No pony tails.
- O. check to make sure ladders are free from defects, broken rungs and have solid feet.
- p. never use makeshift ladders, scaffolding or climb on boxes.
- q. never tamper with electrical switches, extension cords or circuits unless authorized.
- r. always shut down machines before cleaning, adjusting or repairing. Lock and tag the machine and switches.
- s. never oil machines while in motion.
- t. never use hands to remove obstructions from equipment unless equipment is shut off and locked and tagged.
- u. never use defective hand tools.
- v. never operate equipment for which you have not been properly trained and authorized. Observe safe operating procedures for equipment or processes.
- w. Always insure that they follow safe procedures and use all safety devices and equipment. Never operate machines when guards are not in place. Guards must never be removed except when necessary to make adjustments or repairs or when their use is impractical and they should be replaced immediately upon completion of work.
- x. never alter equipment without prior authorization.
- y. always wear respirators when there are heavy flames or dust present. Insure that proper training in the use, care and cleaning of respirators has been received prior to use.
- z. always wear appropriate footwear for each assigned task.
- aa. always keep work areas and floor clean. Put all oily and wet materials in proper containers. Put all rubbish in containers provided. Pick up all broken pallets and wrapping from floor.
- bb. keep doors, aisles, control switches, emergency equipment, fire extinguishers, eye washes, first aid kits and exits clear.
- cc. learn the location of fire fighting equipment, safety exits and evacuation procedures for their department.
- dd. report all accidents, near misses and injuries to their supervisor immediately. Employee. always find out the safe way to perform a task.
- ee. actively support and participate in the company's efforts to provide a workplace accident and injury reduction program.

## **VIII. ENFORCEMENT**

The following procedures will be followed in dealing with safety infractions:

- A. Any employee observed committing an unsafe act, violation of safety rules or causing an unsafe condition



- to exist will be stopped immediately and questioned.
- B. The reason for the violation will be determined.

C. Instruction in the safe procedure will be given. When this instruction is given the following will be observed:

1. Tell the employee what is to be done.
2. Show the employee the correct way to do the job.
3. Test the employee, let the employee practice, the employee will be observed and suggestions for improvements will be given as needed.
4. Check the employee by following up after the employee has returned to work to see that the safety rules are being followed.
5. Unsafe conditions will be corrected at once. If unable to do so, all employees involved will be warned of the hazard. Prompt notification of those responsible for making the correction will be made.
6. Employees will be spot checked occasionally to see that they are following instructions.

## **IX. ACTION REQUIRED FOR VIOLATION OF COMPANY SAFETY RULES**

*(Insert your own company discipline procedures)*

- A. **Verbal warning** - Employee will be given a verbal warning for a minor offense. A record of this warning should be placed in employees personnel file.
- B. **Written warning** - Employee will be given a written warning for relatively serious or repeat offenses. Copies of the written warning are filed in employees personnel file.
- C. **Suspension** - Employees may be suspended from duty without pay and with a written warning for continual repeated offenses or severe violations which result in injury to him/herself and/or others.
- D. **Termination of employment** - may occur for flagrant violations of company policies and procedures. Dismissal may also occur if employees persist in continued or repeated violations of company rules and/or their work, after repeated warnings, continues at an unacceptable level of performance.

## **IX. ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

### **A. WRITTEN EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAM**

1. **Communications** - Each employee will receive a copy of this program for review and training. All new employees will receive this information through the new employee orientation process. Additionally, employees will be kept aware of changes and additions to the program through: notices on bulletin boards, signs, company newsletters, booklets and accident alert notices.
2. **Supervisor training** - All supervisors will receive copies of this AWAIR program and instructions on how to train their employees in this material. Supervisors will receive training in new processes and procedures as these programs are developed and prior to the assignment of employees in these areas. This training will be conducted by company management, vendors or consultants. Refresher training will be provided as needed, but not less than annually.
3. **New employee orientation** - Orientation will begin the first day of employment for all new employees, rehires, part-time employees, and those transferred from different departments. The orientation program will include the company's policies and rules and will provide a thorough safety briefing, as it relates to the job the employee will be performing. The orientation will include:

- a. A tour of the facilities to acquaint employees with the scope of operations. This tour will identify: Emergency facilities, locations of emergency exits, telephones, warning sirens, first aid kits, supervisors offices, eye washes and other emergency equipment.
- b. Explanation of how the employee's job is important to the finished product or service.
- c. Applicable training sections on: *(include those that apply)*
  - Company safety and health policy
  - Employee responsibilities Safety rules and enforcement
  - Communication, hazard reporting, accident reporting,
  - Accident investigations
  - First aid services (Emergency responders)
  - Company emergency plan
  - Employee Right to Know
  - Blood borne pathogens
  - Lockout/tagout procedures
  - Confined space entry Personal protective equipment
4. The employee's immediate supervisor will thoroughly instruct the employee in the specific safety and health requirements of each job before assigning the employee. A safety orientation checklist must be completed by checking each item as it is covered, signed by the supervisor and the employee and placed in the employee's personnel file.
5. Existing employee training will include:
  - a. Regular safety meetings
  - b. Training on new hazards or operations
  - c. Training prior to all work assignments, including specific hazards
  - d. Annual refreshers on all existing company safety programs
6. Specialized training would include special processes, one time use of c tam equipment, first aid training, emergency response training, etc.

## **B. HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL**

*(Company name)* will conduct safety surveys of all departments and work sites on basis to determine potential hazards which may be encountered in the normal course of duty.

Periodic follow-up surveys and/or environmental sampling may be conducted when it is believed employees may be exposed to hazardous materials in concentrations which may be above recognition. This sampling may be conducted by qualified individuals retained by the company. Results of the sampling will be provided to employees on a timely basis.

Employees are encouraged to report potential hazards and unsafe conditions to their supervisor. It will be the responsibility of the supervisor to verify whether or not a hazardous condition actually exists, and to initiate corrective actions should they be necessary.

It will be the responsibility of the supervisor to report noted hazards to the safety coordinator who will document the identified hazard and the corrective actions taken. This documentation will be kept on file

with the safety coordinator.

Once hazards are identified we will take measures either to eliminate the hazards by removing them from our operations or work sites or to control those hazards through:

1. **Engineering controls** - which would include replacing defective equipment, change different procedures or making additions or modifications to facilities, equipment to eliminate or control identified hazards.
2. **Administrative controls**- which will be implemented after all practical engineering reviewed, include: new procedures, limits on employee exposures, written policies and training.
3. **Personal protective equipment** - is the final method of controlling hazards and will review of engineering and administrative controls. Personal protective equipment ~ tasks that present risks which cannot be reasonably controlled using the other two and will always require administrative controls in the form of written policies and forms for employees exposed to the identified hazard.

### **C. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION**

The company recognizes that accidents do not "just happen"; rather they are caused by a series of actions, steps or failures. Once these steps are identified, they can be eliminated or controlled. The purpose of accident investigations is not to place blame, but rather to determine the cause of the accident or "near miss" and eliminate the causative factors. Accident investigations begin with prompt reporting of accidents by employees to supervisors. It is then the responsibility of the supervisor to insure that employees receive prompt medical attention as required. Basic information collected at the scene of the accident should be entered on the (*company name*) accident report form. Supervisors have access to copies of these forms. Upon completion of the form it should be sent to the safety coordinator to review and corrective actions should be taken to prevent a recurrence.

All workplace injuries and illnesses will be monitored by the safety coordinator. These injuries and illnesses will be recorded on the OSHA 300 log which will be posted on company bulletin boards each February.

The safety coordinator, managers and insurance staff will be responsible for monitoring these records to identify trends that may indicate previously unidentified hazards or additional training that may be required.

### **D. ACCOUNTABILITY**

All employees are responsible for safety; therefore safety will be one item that is included in every employee's job description. Safety attitude and participation will also be considered as part of all employee performance reviews.

**For employees** - accountability includes adherence to safety rules and procedures, using protective equipment as required, participation on the safety committee and prompt reporting of any hazard.

**For Supervisors**- accountabilities include training new and existing employees in safe practices,

enforcement of safety rules and procedures, prompt reporting and correction of hazards, accident investigations, department safety inspections, positive reinforcement of safe behavior and timely employee communications.

**For Managers** - accountabilities include all of the areas required for supervisors with the addition of participation on the safety committee, reductions in injury rates and workers compensation costs, accident investigations, proactive elimination of hazards and demonstrated leadership in safety related matters.

### **E. ESTABLISHED GOALS**

The number one goal of (*company name*)'s AWAIR program is to establish a safe work environment for all company employees. In order to measure the effectiveness of our program the company has established the following additional goals:

1. Reduction in lost work day incidence rate (LWDIR) which is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{LWDIR} = \frac{\text{\# of lost time injuries/illnesses per year} \times 200,000}{\text{Total number of employee hours worked during the year}}$$

2. Reduction in workers' compensation premium.
3. Reduction in accident reports filed.
4. Reduction in near miss accidents.
5. Actual documentation of hazards removed from the work place.

### **X. ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW**

The safety and health efforts of (*company name*) are ongoing and will be reviewed and updated annually or as often as necessary to help us meet our program goals.

*Additional items which YOU may wish to include in your AWAIR program:*

Employee orientation checklist  
Safety inspection checklist  
Employee safety rules  
Hazard report procedures & form  
Employee suggestion form  
Lockout/tagout program  
Right to know program  
Personal protective equipment program  
Confined space entry program  
Hearing conservation program  
Respirator program  
Fall Protection program  
Blood-borne pathogens program  
Other specialized programs that pertain to your organization