

Workplace Hazard Inspection

An important element of successful injury prevention programs is the routine inspection for hazards in the workplace. The purpose of conducting routine inspections is to identify system issues that may be contributing to unsafe conditions and unsafe actions. Workplace conditions and practices are constantly changing, and routine inspections offer a process to manage these changing conditions.

On-the-job training in hazard recognition and MIOSHA standards will assist employees in learning how to identify hazards. MIOSHA's Training Institute offers cost-effective courses throughout the year and there are scholarships available. Applications may be submitted for courses no more than three months prior to the start date and no later than three weeks prior to the course start date.

Inspections can be a regular function of the safety and health committee as well as a management function. To ensure that you conduct effective inspections, consider using the following strategies:

- Make use of a checklist. Visit the AAMFund.com website to download a FREE self-inspection checklist.
- Talk to workers during the inspections;
- Observe workers doing their jobs and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment;
- Assess required safeguards for equipment, machinery and housekeeping;
- Use any appropriate industrial hygiene services/equipment to assess noise levels, temperature and humidity or air contaminants.

Be sure to document findings and retain records, which demonstrates your proactive measures and helps with follow-up efforts. Inspection reports should include the potential hazard (including location, equipment, and personnel), action required, responsible person for actions, and correction date. Lastly, establish a follow-up system to assure corrections are completed.

Should you require assistance with starting a hazard inspection process in your workplace, please contact Gary Smith, CRM, at (517) 338-3367 or gary.smith@yorkrsg.com.

Resource:

1. MIOSHA Training Institute: http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-11407_15317_47430---,00.html