

Safety: Does it Really Help Your Company?

Can safety contribute to a business' success? This is a question often asked, especially when an organization embarks on developing a safety process for the first time.

There are many reasons why an organization develops a safety process, such as reducing exposures that lead to injuries and liability, complying with OSHA regulations, or minimizing the impact of insurance rates. While all of these are good reasons, the thought of safety contributing to an organization's success is far removed from avoidance.

To understand how safety can contribute to the success of an organization, we must first understand that safety is a process, a system that is integral in the organization's operations. To be successful, safety has to be part of the organization's culture; the way things are done. That is easy to say, but hard to accomplish.

In a study completed by the National Federation of Independent Business survey, the top four (4) reasons for safety include:

1. Cost – controlling the cost of workers' compensation
2. Moral – "It is the right thing to do"
3. Profitability
4. Safety Regulations – compliance

Safe, satisfied employees are more likely to stay in their jobs, generate better work and be more productive. The result is decreased costs associated with training and production, and increased business value.

Numerous studies show that organizations with people oriented cultures, active safety leadership and proactive return-to-work programs can be as much as three times (3x) more efficient and productive than organizations lacking these characteristics.

The results of these surveys and studies appear to mirror the benefits of safety that we've always known, benefits such as:

- Fewer injuries from reduction of exposures and hazards
- Reduced insurance premiums from fewer injuries
- Increased productive hours from lower absenteeism rates
- Increased worker productivity from fewer mistakes
- Increased efficiency from fewer faulty production processes

Working with dangers, hazards and risks present slows productivity. Attention to safety results in increased attention to work detail and efficiency. The result can include faster identification of faulty processes or products, decreasing operating costs, increasing productivity and higher profits.