



GOALS

This safety session teaches employees to:

- Identify causes of repeat accidents.
- Take appropriate action to prevent repeat accidents.

Applicable Regulations: General Duty Clause, Occupational Safety and Health Act



1. Repeat accidents hurt everybody.

- Repeat accidents lower morale and create fear of even more accidents in the future.
- Repeat accidents add stress as people become tense on the job as they are expecting more incidents.
- Repeat accidents can cause people to lose confidence in themselves, their coworkers, and the safety of their working environment.
- Repeat accidents slow production, increase costs, and impact quality.
- Even one accident hurts the workplace, so repeat accidents multiply the damage.
- Repeat accidents are not inevitable—they can be prevented if everyone works together.

2. There are several common causes of repeat accidents.

- Certain jobs and situations produce more repeat accidents, including:
 - High-risk jobs involving hazardous chemicals, dangerous equipment, confined spaces, etc.
 - High-stress jobs without adequate built-in relief, such as enough staff or sufficient breaks.
 - Repetitive jobs that can cause musculoskeletal disorders.
 - Seasonal jobs that involve periodic high-volume work.
 - Repeat injuries from previous injuries that didn't heal properly or referred injuries from overcompensation of other body parts to make up for an injured body part.
- Certain employees are more likely to have repeat accidents, such as:
 - Stoic "tough guys" who work through injuries.
 - Workaholics who rush or cut safety corners to get more work done.
 - Angry people who let their emotions distract them from working safely.
 - Disengaged workers who don't care enough to be careful.
 - Tired people who make mistakes because of fatigue.

3. Other factors can also contribute to the risk of repeat accidents.

- Other issues involved in repeat accidents include human, jobsite, and safety culture factors.
- Human factors may include lack of job skills or safety training, use of poor judgment, inadequate physical fitness, or unsafe work habits.
- Jobsite factors may include how well tasks and work spaces are designed for safety, the workload and work flow, and the general work environment.
- Safety culture factors may include employee and management commitment to safety, efficiency of accident investigation and hazard correction procedures, effectiveness of



training programs, and the existence of well-honed strategies and systems for continuous safety improvement.

4. Accident investigations can identify causes and prevent repeat accidents.

- Accident investigations help identify accident causes, correct hazards, and improve procedures to prevent future errors and incidents.
- By reporting accidents and near misses, you allow investigators to get to the root of safety problems and eliminate unsafe conditions and unsafe acts, or at least minimize risks.
- If you are involved in an accident investigation, cooperate fully and tell investigators all you know about the incident so that they can get the whole story.

5. You can also help prevent repeat accidents.

- Inspect your work area daily for safety, and practice good housekeeping.
- Keep alert for hazards while you work, and warn coworkers when they are at risk.
- Make suggestions for improving safety in your job and your work area.
- Get involved in the organization's safety programs—for example, volunteer for a safety committee.
- Commit to working safely by setting safety goals, attending training sessions and safety meetings, and doing your part to make the workplace safer.
- Never break safety rules, take shortcuts, or increase your risks in any way.
- Pay attention to and obey safety signs and other warnings posted around the workplace.
- Always wear assigned personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Report hazards you see anywhere in the workplace right away.



DISCUSSION POINTS:

Ask participants to identify repeat accident risks in their job or work area and to suggest ways they and their coworkers can help prevent these accidents.



CONCLUSION:

- Break the chain of repeat accidents.
- One accident is bad enough, especially when it leads to an injury. But it's even worse when the same types of accidents happen again. Do your part to improve safety and prevent repeat accidents.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Have your employees take the Repeat Accidents quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their ability to prevent repeat accidents and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



REPEAT ACCIDENTS QUIZ

1. **Repeat accidents are inevitable; there's nothing you can do to prevent them.**
a. True b. False
2. **Repeat accidents hurt only the people who are injured.**
a. True b. False
3. **Repeat accidents can:**
a. Increase stress.
b. Lower morale.
c. Both a and b.
4. **Repeat accidents are more likely in some jobs than others.**
a. True b. False
5. **Factors that affect the occurrence of repeat accidents include:**
a. Human factors
b. Jobsite factors
c. Both a and b
6. **An organization's safety culture plays a role in repeat accidents.**
a. True b. False
7. **Accident investigations:**
a. Can prevent repeat accidents
b. Don't prevent repeat accidents
c. Are the cause of repeat accidents
8. **Angry or tired people are more likely to have repeat accidents than most other workers.**
a. True b. False
9. **You can help prevent repeat accidents by reporting hazards.**
a. True b. False
10. **Other ways to prevent repeat accidents include:**
a. Making suggestions for improving safety
b. Breaking safety rules
c. Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) once in a while

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: _____

Date: _____



ANSWERS TO REPEAT ACCIDENTS QUIZ

1. b. False. Repeat accidents don't have to happen. They can be prevented. There's a lot you can do, personally, to help break the chain of repeat accidents.
2. b. False. Everyone in the workplace is hurt by repeat accidents.
3. c. Repeat accidents affect stress levels, morale, productivity, and a lot more.
4. a. True. High-risk and high-stress jobs are prime candidates for repeat accidents, as are repetitive and seasonal jobs.
5. c. These are both factors that can contribute to repeat accidents.
6. a. True. Safety culture plays a very important role in how workers view safety and how management responds to safety risks. The risk of repeat accidents decreases the stronger an organization's safety culture is.
7. a. Accident investigations identify accident causes and suggest ways to correct hazards that cause accidents and repeat accidents. If you are involved in an accident, cooperate with investigators so that a similar accident can be prevented in the future.
8. a. True. So are "tough guys" who work when injured, careless people, and workaholics.
9. a. True. Report hazards you see anywhere in the workplace right away.
10. a. Making suggestions for improving safety will help prevent repeat accidents as will inspecting your work area daily for safety, keeping alert for hazards while working, committing to working safely, getting involved in workplace safety programs, obeying safety rules and warning signs, and wearing assigned PPE.