

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Vol 28 - No 19 ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Accident investigations are conducted to determine the cause and to prevent any further accidents of the same nature. Keep in mind that questions from the investigators are for that purpose; most usually ask the open ended question of "What did you see happen?".

A witness to an accident is not always the person that saw what happened. For example, if you saw a series of events leading to an accident, you would then be an "eyewitness". Your information is very important and should not be discussed with fellow workers. It should be relayed to your supervisor or the investigator. Keep what you saw to yourself, until he is available. Explain only the facts, not opinions, feelings, or possibilities. Leave that to the investigator.

The investigator may begin with questions asking general information about your position with the company. Secondly questions about what happened, what you saw and what you know will follow. Take your time. Possibly refer to a written report, memo, or note of the accident that you wrote down or recorded. This might help secure your memory of the incident. Remember that prevention is the most important part of any investigation. Cooperate and don't worry about who is to blame.

If you are investigating an accident, a series of supplies might help to get all the facts straight. Such items as a camera with film and flash, a note pad, a measuring tape, and latex gloves will help paint the picture of the accident clearly. Always keep an open mind and stick to the facts.

If you are in charge of the jobsite, secure the equipment and the area involved for investigators to review. Be sure your supervisor is reminded of the same. Try not to touch items that caused the accident. If they need to be moved then secure them, cover them or separate them to an isolated area. Remember the purpose of this is to give investigators the clearest view of the accident scene for future accident prevention.

Always refer to your company's accident investigation policy for procedures and follow them as closely as you can. Accident prevention is your responsibility - **BE SAFE!**





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