

Energize your safety committee

An active, engaged safety committee can have a positive impact on your workplace. Here are 10 ways to energize your safety committee and achieve outstanding results:

When safety is valued:

Workplaces hazards decrease.

Safe work practices increase.

Pain and suffering is avoided.

Morale goes up.

Costs are controlled.

Create a vision statement. Keep it short and inspiring: “We want every employee to go home safely every day.” Post it for everyone to see. Consider having employees sign it. Review it frequently at safety committee meetings.

Know your purpose. Develop a safety committee charter. Outline specific roles and responsibilities. Emphasize that members can make a difference by preventing injuries, improving profitability, and insuring legal compliance.

Recruit safety champions. Find members with energy and enthusiasm for workplace safety. Ask what they need to stay engaged. Keep a good balance of employees and management. Change members periodically to bring in fresh ideas.

Get support from senior management. Ask top management to write and sign a safety policy statement. Remind supervisors to support all safety efforts. Invite executives to attend meetings. Seek financial and management resources.

Set meaningful goals. Use proactive measures to assess safety performance, such as the number of safety inspections, employees trained, and near misses reported. Focus on success.

Stay upbeat. Share a near miss or proactive measure that prevented an



injury. Promote open communication and problem solving. Invite a third party, such as your SAIF safety consultant, to observe meetings and offer feedback.

Become a high performance safety team. A team implies action and purpose. Choose a name. Follow the three “P”s for success:

- **Planning.** Hold regular meetings and give them as much importance as other work activities.
- **Preparation.** Publish your agenda in advance. Make it specific, timely, and relevant. Stick to it.
- **Performance.** Have meaningful discussions, action items, and follow-up.

Involve team members in meaningful activities. Do a job hazard analysis. Assist with incident analysis. Assist with annual program review and revision. Develop safe operating procedures. Conduct safety orientations. Sponsor an ergo team.

Acknowledge success. Make posters, t-shirts, hats, or badges to identify team members. Celebrate successes in company meetings. Nominate employees who made a positive contribution as “safety stars.”

Provide training and enrichment. Invite outside speakers. Support attendance at OSHA classes and American Society of Safety Professional meetings. Encourage fun and creativity.