

Accident Investigations

Do you know the answers?

1. An incident is an undesired event that could have resulted in injury to an employee or damage to property -True or False

2. What is the principle purpose of an accident investigation?

- a. To discover who was at fault
- b. To punish the person who caused it
- c. To prevent a recurrence of the accident

3. The first step in an investigation is to eliminate any hazards and secure the accident area-
True or False

4. A successful investigation determines:

- a. Exactly what happened and when it happened
 - b. Exactly how and why it happened
 - c. All of the above
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Purpose of the investigation: A successful investigation determines not only what happened but how and why the accident occurred.

1. To learn the cause of the accident so that a similar accident can be prevented
2. To determine if any deviation resulted in the accident
3. To educate employees in a particular hazard and direct attention to the accident

The investigation can not be done without an accurate description of the incident, what injury occurred, what is the normal sequence of events at the site and what was the sequence of events that led up to the accident.

The investigation must be done on the site of the accident and as close to the time of the injury as possible.

What are we looking for?

Immediate Cause: If someone slipped and fell on a wet floor, the wet floor would be considered the immediate cause of the incident.

Most investigations stop too soon. The immediate cause of the incident might have been the wet floor in this case but what caused the water to be on the floor. This cause would be the ROOT cause or the underlying cause. Determining the underlying cause of an incident can be the most beneficial result of the investigation in providing the information needed to prevent further accidents.

Examples:



4/21/11 Employee was operating a "pig" , slipped and fell due to oil on the floor. Felt pull in back.

1/12/12 Employee was carrying boxes of supplies to the storage area. Fell down stairs and struck shoulder on post.