

What Factors Most Impact Workplace Safety?

Several studies have tried to determine ways toward improving workplace safety. However, each industry faces unique risks and challenges, making it difficult to developing a one-size-fits-all approach to safety. Employers focusing on the big picture may miss the underlying causes of accidents, which could lead to more workplace injuries and workers' compensation claims.

A study by the University of Georgia examined some of the aspects most important to workplace safety. The results showed how important it was for there to be a "top-down" culture toward worker safety. Companies that demonstrated a strong organization commitment to preventing injuries played a major role toward keeping workplaces accident-free.

When each level of an organization devotes attention to safety issues, it helps stress safety to employees. Employers that carefully monitor their safety protocols can help spot potentially dangerous trends, and take the proper steps to address these concerns. Workers can feel free to discuss safety hazards, and know that management is taking their ideas seriously.

This particular study examined several different types of occupations and industries. Workplaces that placed an emphasis on a work-life balance also demonstrated a lower risk rate of on-the-job accidents. When work placed significant demand on an employee's time, and this interfered with family obligations, accident risk increased by 37 percent.

While no one wants to miss time from work, especially in this difficult economy where jobs are hard to find, accidents and injuries happen. Workers injured on the job may be eligible to

file for workers' compensation. It is important to notify your employers as soon as an injury occurs, as any delay may prevent recovery.

Source: Business Insurance "[Work life balance impacts employee injury rates: Study](#)" March 26, 2012.