

Accident Investigation

Breaking the Chain



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The Principles

What is an accident

Three cause levels

What accidents should be investigated

Why should they be investigated

What are the initial “Do’s”



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What Is and Is Not an Accident

WHAT IS...

- An unplanned event that results in personal injury or in property damage.
- The failure of people, equipment, supplies, or surrounding to behave or react as expected.

WHAT IS NOT...

- Personnel or property damage caused deliberately.
- Requiring personnel to use the wrong equipment, not training personnel, allowing an unsafe condition to continue, tolerating safety rule violations, breaking safety rules, not maintaining equipment per manufacturers requirements.

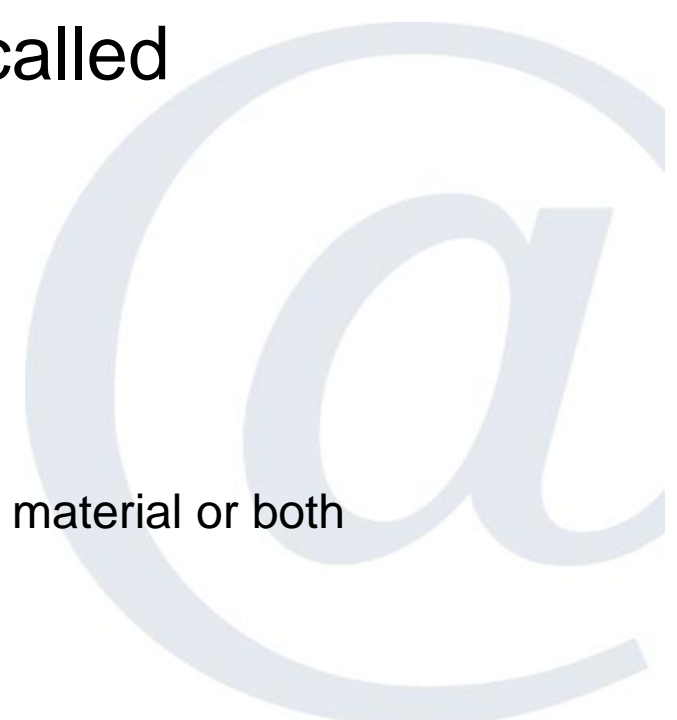
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Cause Levels of an Accident

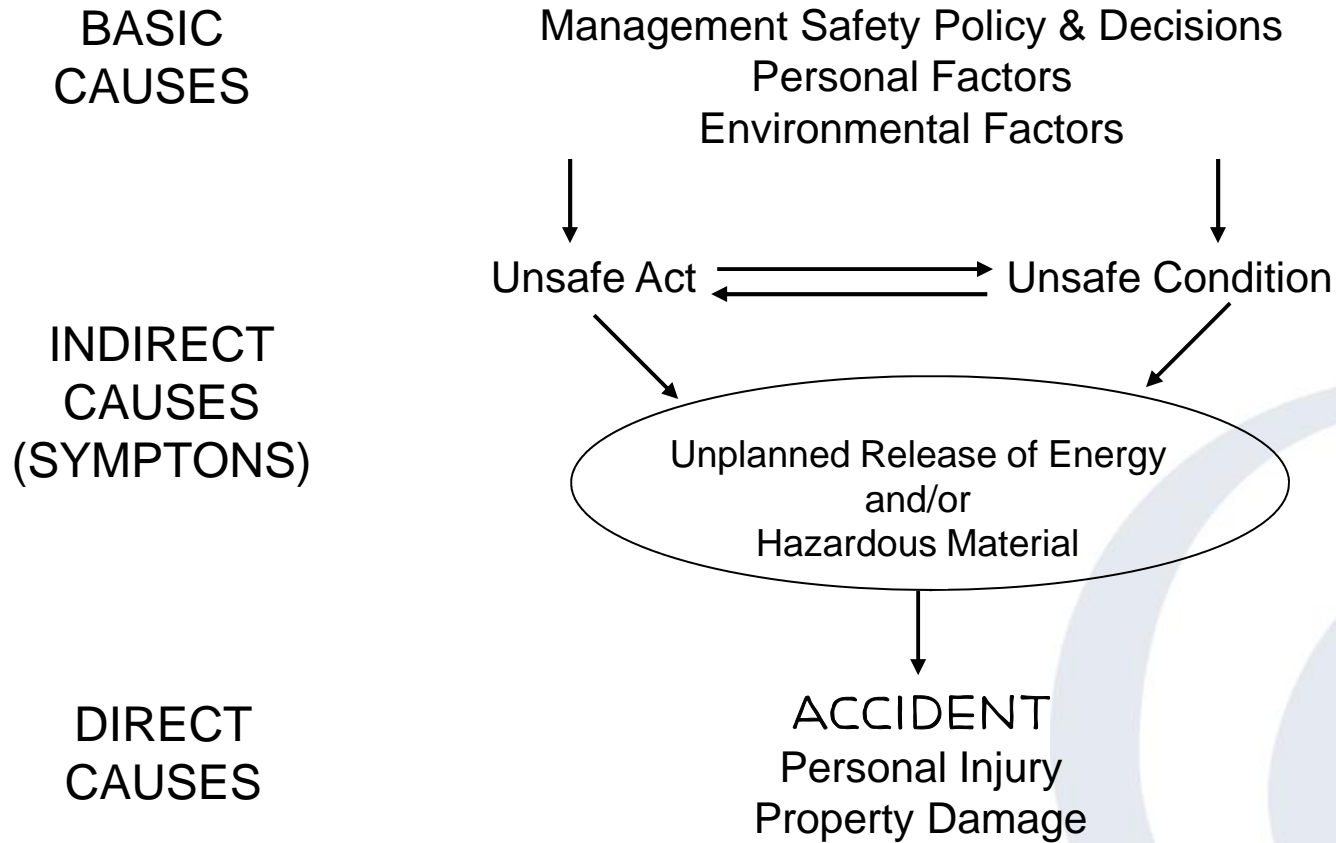
- **Basic Causes**
 - Management safety policies & decisions
- **Indirect Causes (sometimes called symptoms)**
 - Unsafe employee actions
 - Unsafe workplace condition
- **Direct Causes**
 - Unplanned release of energy or hazardous material or both



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A detailed analysis of an accident will normally reveal three causes levels; basic, indirect, and direct.

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Causes

Basic Causes

Poor Training
No Supervisor Training
Inadequate Supervision

Rules not enforced
No Safety Policy
Purchasing policy

Poor Equipment Design
No Safety Follow-up

Indirect Causes

No MSDS
Didn't Follow Rules
Misusing Equipment

Defective Equipment
Wrong Tools
Didn't Know How

Poor Housekeeping
Health Hazards
Poor lighting



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Kinds of Energy

- Kinetic: Energy associated with motion
- Static energy: Compressed coil/spring, overhead storage
- Chemical: Corrosive, carcinogenic
- Thermal: Hot/Cold
- Electrical: Burn, shock, electrocution
- Ionizing & non-ionizing radiation: Welding/radioactive material
- Acoustic: Noise
- Biological: Numerous
 - Exclusion/limited oxygen
 - Exposure to elements
 - Inhibit immune system



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Examples of Energy Resulting in Workplace Accidents

- Falls on same level, different levels, and falling objects
- Humans: Striking against, lifting, pushing/pulling/reaching
- Vehicle motion
- Projectiles, moving parts, shearing, cutting
- Rotating nip points, crushing, tearing
- Compressed air
- Flammable fires or explosions
- General moving parts
- Loud continuous or intermittent noise



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What Types of Accidents Should be Investigated?

ALL OF THEM!

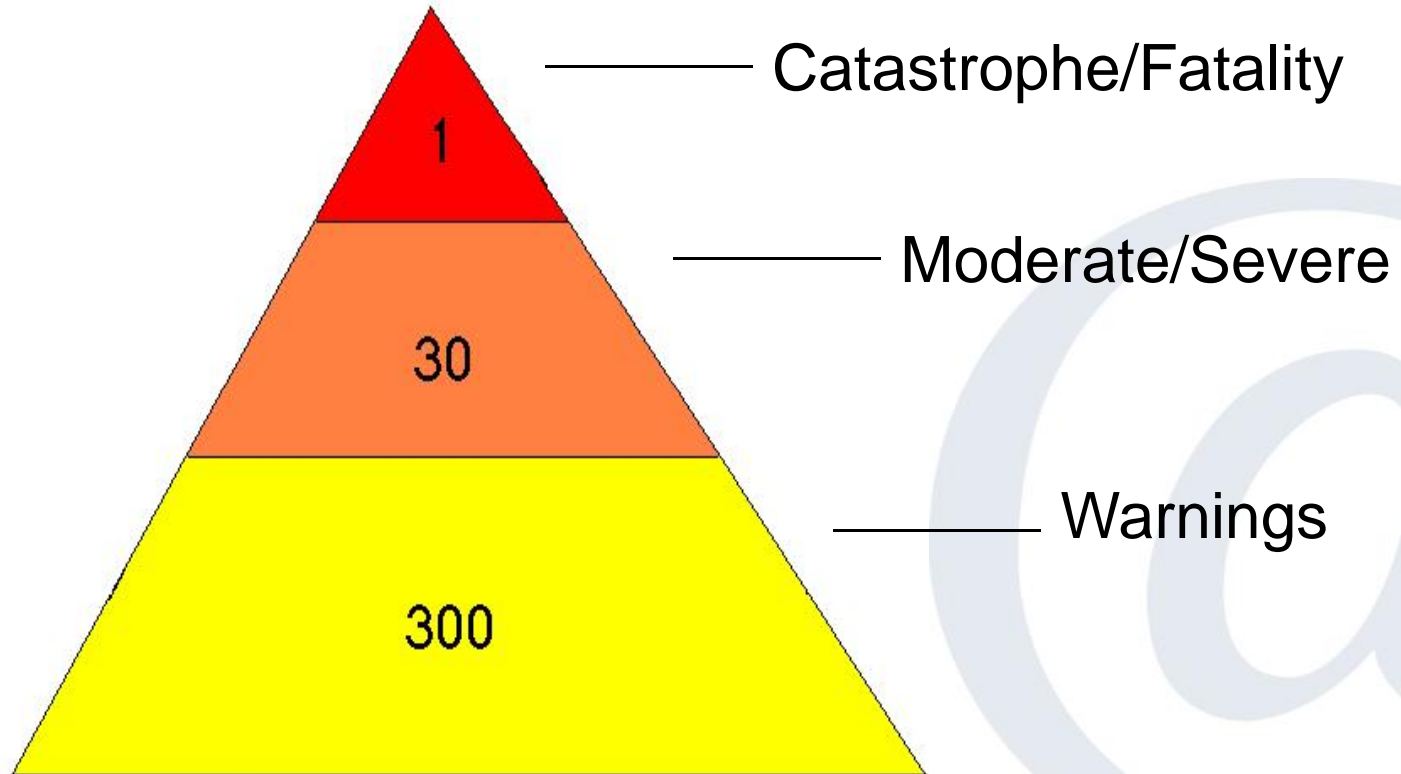


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Pyramid of Chance



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What to Do

- Make the situation better
 - Prevent additional accidents
 - Provide appropriate medical services
 - Public relations
 - Notify family
 - Contact OSHA (fatality/catastrophe)
 - Subrogation actions
 - Secure evidence



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What to Do

- Begin investigation immediately
- Collect accident information
 - Interview witnesses
 - Gather facts about employees, equipment, environment
 - Training records, orientation, authorizations
 - Additional factors relating to the accident
 - Time, staffing level, changes in processes
- Complete the accident report

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Accident Analysis

Root Causes



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What Makes Up A Root Cause

Actions

- Failing to comply with safety rules
- Using unsafe methods
- Taking short cuts
- Allowing unsafe behaviors
- Failing to train
- Failing to correct a hazard

Conditions

- Damaged machinery
- Unlabelled chemical container
- Safety glasses on-top of worker's head
- Poor housekeeping in work environment
- Poorly designed work process

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Unsafe Actions



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Unsafe Conditions



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Ask Why & How

- Why was the unsafe action performed
- Why did the unsafe condition exist
- How can we assure the unsafe action doesn't recur
- How can the condition be prevented from exist

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Analysis – Key Factors

- People
- Equipment
- Material
- Environment



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Corrective Action

- Determine specific actions/corrections
- Assign correction responsibilities
- Assign a date for completion
- Check to assure specific actions/corrections are completed by due date
- Check to make sure actions/corrections eliminate or control the root causes

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The Law

- OSHA Standards
 - General duty clause
- New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration (WCA)
 - First report of injury (E-1)
 - Notice of accident



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General Duty Clause

Section 5(a) (1) of the OSH Act, requires employers to furnish to each employee, employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.

Note: Anything more severe than First Aid

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Legal Requirements

- OSHA Notification
 - Three or more hospitalized workers from a single accident - 24 hours
 - Fatality - 8 hours
- OSHA Recordkeeping
 - Forms 300 and 301



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Compliance Clause

Section 5(a)(2) - Requires employers to comply with an Occupational Safety and Health Standards (OSHA) promulgated under this Act.

Without investigation how will you know if you are compliant?

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Risk & Safety Management Contact

If you have any questions or would like Risk and Safety assistance with your policy, please contact us:

Albuquerque area: (505) 345-7260

Toll Free: (800) 788-8851

P.O. Box 27825

Albuquerque, NM 87125

You can also email us at NMMSafetyAdvisor@NewMexicoMutual.com



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