Common Accident Causes

Understanding the primary causes of accidents in the workplace is the first step toward creating safer working environments.

9 common causes of workplace incidents are:

1 Lack of proper training

When employees are not adequately trained to perform their duties or use equipment, they are more likely to make mistakes that can lead to accidents.

2 Unsafe work environment

An unsafe work environment includes a range of factors, including: Poorly maintained equipment, hazardous materials, inadequate lighting, improper ventilation, and other conditions that increase the likelihood of accidents.

3 Human error

It's generally accepted that 80–90% of accidents are due to human error. Factors like fatigue, distraction, and complacency can lead to errors that result in accidents.

4 Inadequate safety policies

When safety policies are unclear, outdated, or not consistently enforced, workers may need help understanding how to maintain their safety, leading to increased risks of accidents.

5 Lack of communication

When communication breaks down, accidents can occur due to misunderstandings, lack of coordination, or missed warnings.

6 Insufficient emergency preparedness

Insufficient emergency preparedness can exacerbate the consequences of workplace accidents. In cases where accidents occur due to fire or other emergencies, lack of preparation can lead to chaos and increased harm.

7 Workforce attitude and behavior

A negative or complacent attitude toward safety can lead to risk-taking behaviors, failure to follow safety protocols, and a lack of vigilance.

8 Outdated technology and equipment

Over time, machinery and tools can become less reliable, increasing the chances of accidents due to malfunctions or failures.

9 Lack of supervision and accountability

Workers may engage in risky behaviors or neglect safety measures when not adequately supervised. A lack of accountability can lead to a culture where unsafe actions go unaddressed.

"Safety is a core value and business priority"

West Fraser