



TECHNICAL UPDATE

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WORKPLACE SAFETY

Workplace safety is a critical aspect of any business, as it not only ensures the well-being of employees but also contributes to the overall productivity and success of the organization. Here are some key aspects of workplace safety and what businesses can do to promote a safe working environment:

- 1. Risk Assessment:** Regularly assess and identify potential hazards in the workplace. This includes physical hazards (equipment), chemical hazards, ergonomic issues, and psychosocial factors.
- 2. Emergency Preparedness:** Develop and communicate emergency procedures, including evacuation plans, fire drills, and first aid protocols. Ensure that all employees are aware of emergency exits and the location of safety equipment such as fire extinguishers and first aid kits.
- 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Identify and provide the necessary PPE for different job roles. Ensure that employees are trained on how to use and maintain their PPE properly.
- 4. Workstation Ergonomics:** Design workstations to promote good ergonomics, reducing the risk of musculoskeletal disorders. Encourage employees to take regular breaks to prevent fatigue and discomfort.
- 5. Incident Reporting and Investigation:** Implement a system for reporting accidents, incidents, or near misses promptly. Investigate incidents thoroughly to understand the root causes and implement corrective actions to prevent future occurrences.
- 6. Compliance with Regulations:** Stay informed about and comply with local, state, and federal safety regulations relevant to your industry. Regularly update safety protocols to align with changing regulations.
- 7. Continuous Improvement:** Foster a culture of continuous improvement by using incident data and feedback to make informed decisions and continually enhance safety practices.

WORKPLACE SAFETY INDEX (WSI)

The [2023 Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index \(WSI\)](#) examines the top 10 causes across all industries of the most serious disabling workplace injuries – those leading to more than five missed workdays – ranked by their direct cost to employers based on medical expenses and lost wages.

The top 10 most costly causes of workplace injuries and illnesses in 2023 and their direct costs to U.S. businesses:

Cause	Cost (Billions)	Percentage
Overexertion involving outside sources (handling object)	\$12.84	21.9%
Falls on same level	\$8.98	15.3%
Falls to lower level (ladder, steps)	\$6.09	10.4%
Struck by object or equipment	\$5.14	8.8%
Other exertions or bodily reactions (awkward postures)	\$3.67	6.3%
Exposure to other harmful substances (Includes COVID-19)	\$3.35	5.7%
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles	\$2.58	4.4%
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects (running machines)	\$1.98	3.4%
Slip or trip without fall	\$1.92	3.3%
Pedestrian vehicular incidents	\$1.61	2.7%

Developed annually, the Index ranks the top 10 causes of serious, nonfatal workplace injuries by their direct costs to U.S. businesses. The 2023 Index shows that the top 10 injuries amounted to \$48.15 billion in direct U.S. workers' compensation costs; this is 82.2% of the total amount of \$58.61 billion the U.S. industry spent on the direct costs of worker injuries. The Liberty Mutual WSI helps you make your workplace safer by identifying critical risk areas so that you can better allocate safety resources.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR COUNTIES

Workplace injuries cost U.S. businesses more than \$1 billion per week. That's more than \$58 billion per year, with the vast majority caused by just 10 common injuries. By prioritizing workplace safety, counties can create a safer work environment, reduce workers' compensation claims, decrease accidents and injuries, and contribute to the overall well-being and satisfaction of their workforce. For more information, contact CTSI at (303) 861-0507.