



Accident and Incident Prevention

It is important to prevent accidents and incidents from happening, if they do occur, reporting plays a key role in allowing causes to be investigated.

Importance

An accident is an unintended event that happens suddenly and leads to injury without one's foresight or expectation. It often causes damage to property or injury to people, but it does not necessarily need to be serious. An incident is an event that could have resulted in an accident but did not. Such incidents can often be minor and cause no harm, but they can also lead to more severe consequences if not addressed.

Regulations

Legislation and rules under Work Cover WA, Workers Compensation Laws QLD, and Accident Compensation Act 2001 New Zealand, are the legal framework for managing workers compensation and rehabilitation program.

Guidance of Reporting

If an accident and incident occur, report it, no matter how minor. Reporting of accidents and incidents are valuable management tool that can be used as an aid to risk assessment, helping to develop solutions to potential risks and to ensure corrective action is taken.

What is notifiable incident and accident?

This is one involving a serious injury, illness or death of a worker, or a dangerous high potential near miss.

Any accidents and incidents must be reported to the relevant enforcing authority and records kept of:

- Work related deaths.
- Work related accidents which cause certain specified serious injuries to workers such as, immediate medical treatment (e.g., amputation of any body part, a serious head, eye or burn injury, scalping, spinal injury, or serious laceration.
- Cases of those industrial diseases or illnesses.
- Certain dangerous occurrences or high near miss incidents.
- Injuries to person to a member of the public, which are caused by an accident at work, and which result in the person being taken to hospital for treatment.

Once an incident and accident occur at the workplace:

- Attend to any injured workers.
- Secure the worksite (if safe).
- Report to the relevant authorities or regulator within 48 hours of the incident.

SUMMARY

We are all exposed to risks in some shape of form regardless of where we work. Therefore, it is vital that everyone in the workplace understands the importance of reporting both safety related incidents and accidents, no matter how minor they may seem.