



Consider This

HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2014



Accident
Investigation



Fit Factors Vs.
Protection Factors



Who Needs a
Health and Safety
Plan?



Use the Right Tool
for the Task



Are Injuries Just
Part of the Game?



Firework Safety on
the Fourth of July



Accident Investigations – How thorough is your process?

Has the feeling of uneasiness ever come over you while reviewing an accident or incident investigation report? Maybe it was because of the incident itself or maybe it was because the needed information just wasn't there.

Accident/incident investigations are a tool for uncovering hazards that were missed earlier or have managed to slip out of the controls planned for them. It is useful only when done with the aim of discovering every contributing factor to the accident/incident to "foolproof" the condition and/or activity and prevents future occurrences. In other words, your objective is to identify root causes, not to primarily set blame.

Here is a checklist to assist you in determining if your accident/incident investigations need immediate focus:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Investigators have been trained in accident/incident investigation and documentation procedures. | ☐ Sketches and photos are included. |
| ☐ Investigations are conducted immediately or by the end of the shift. | ☐ Interviewers understand appropriate interviewing techniques. |
| ☐ Investigators understand how to secure the accident scene, collect facts, develop the sequence of events, determine multiple causes and direct causes and write the report. | ☐ Immediate corrective actions are implemented and documented. Those actions needing additional time are documented, assigned responsibility and tracked to closure. |
| ☐ Employees are involved in investigation activities for additional expertise and insight. | ☐ Safety programs and training records are reviewed. (Standard operating procedures, manufacturer's guidelines, safety policies, job safety analyses, etc.) |
| ☐ Everyone involved is interviewed. (Injured personnel, witnesses, supervisors, mentors, personnel who do the same job, maintenance, trainers, etc.) | ☐ Investigation reports are communicated across all levels of the organization and to other company locations. |

If your investigation program does not cover these basics, critical information might be missed, true root causes might not be identified, documentation errors could end up costing you money or another individual could get injured.

Call EHS Support today to arrange accident investigation training for your managers, supervisors, lead personnel, safety committee and key personnel.

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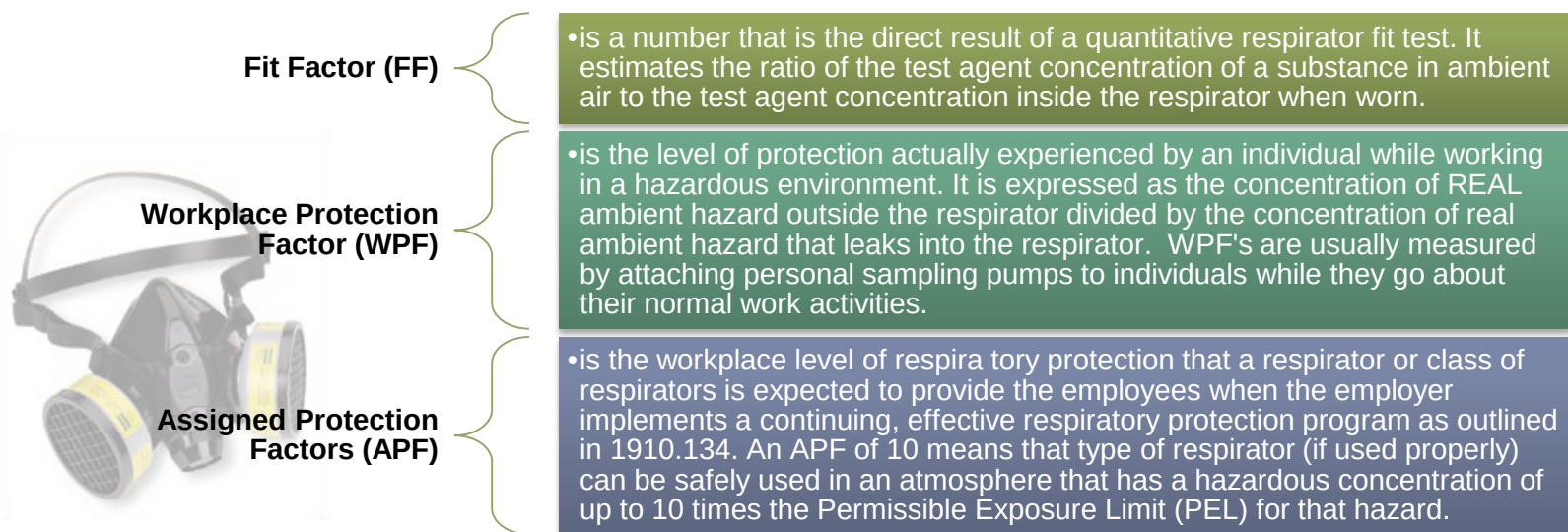
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Fit Factors vs. Protection Factors

When dealing with Respiratory Protection, there are terms that seem to get crisscrossed and confusion sets in. The term "Protection Factor" is ambiguous. Different people often have different definitions for it. Sometimes the one using the term is referring to the level of protection an individual experiences when wearing a respirator, in some instances it is used to refer to the result of a fit test, and in other instances one assumes it is indicating that it is the level of protection provided by a particular type of respirator. In order to standardize the terminology used in the respiratory protection field, the term Protection Factor (PF) has been replaced by three other terms; Fit Factor (FF), Workplace Protection Factor (WPF), and Assigned Protection Factor (APF). If one wants to be positive that others understand what 'factor' is being referred to, the term Protection Factor should not be used by itself. Here are the definitions of FF, WPF and APF:



Respirator fit is rejected if the overall fit factor does not meet the pass criteria, which is generally 10 times the assigned protection factor for the negative pressure respirator tested. Therefore, unless the regulation or standard you intend to comply with specifies a different value, a Fit Factor Pass Level of 100 and 500 respectively should be used for half and full face negative pressure air purifying respirators.

References:

29 CFR 1910.134

http://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/webserver?mwsId=SSSSSufSevTsZxtUM8_vlYtxevUqevTSevTSevTSeSSSSSS--&fn=3104_RespFitTest.pdf

Work Safe. Live Safe. Stay Safe.

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Who Needs a Health and Safety Plan?

Are all projects required to have a health and safety plan (HASP)? Well, it depends on what you are doing. When one speaks of or refers to a HASP, another may have a completely different understanding of a HASP.

The Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) applies to five distinct groups of employers and their employees. This includes any employees who are exposed or potentially exposed to hazardous substances -- including hazardous waste -- and who are engaged in operations as specified by 1910.120(a)(1)(i-v) and 1926.65(a)(1)(i-v). Under these circumstances a HASP is a written document that would require protective measures for site workers and the community during investigation or cleanup activities.

To others not involved in such activities, such as in the construction industry, several OSHA standards address a health and safety plan (or program). The following is a list of topics relevant to developing and maintaining a health and safety plan:

- Management Commitment to Safety and Health
- Hazard Identification and Determination
- Hazard Elimination and Control
- Emergency Response Planning
- First Aid and Medical
- Training
- Recordkeeping and Abatement Verification.

Five Groups Under HAZWOPER

1. Clean-up operations -- required by a governmental body, whether federal, state, local, or other involving hazardous substances -- that are conducted at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites;
2. Corrective actions involving clean-up operations at sites covered by the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA)** as amended (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.);
3. Voluntary clean-up operations at sites recognized by federal, state, local, or other governmental body as uncontrolled hazardous waste sites;
4. Operations involving hazardous wastes that are conducted at treatment, storage, and disposal facilities regulated by **Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations** Parts 264 and 265 pursuant to RCRA, or by agencies under agreement with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement RCRA regulations; and
5. Emergency response operations for releases of, or substantial threats of releases of, hazardous substances regardless of the location of the hazard.

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Use the Right Tool for the Task

Have you ever seen an employee use a screwdriver as a hammer or a cheater bar on a wrench? Why do employees choose to use the wrong tool for the job? Here are a few possibilities:

- Lack of training.
- In a hurry.
- Not provided with the correct tool for the job.

These possibilities are spot on, but there's another crucial possibility not mentioned above—the fact that the employee doesn't think anything bad will happen if they are using the incorrect tool. This behavior can be compared to obeying the speed limit when driving. Let's be honest, how many of us have ever exceeded the speed limit? For some, this may be a continuous behavior that happens daily. Why? We don't plan ahead, manage our time appropriately and think we are in control and that nothing bad will happen. Our experience can contribute to a false sense of security, which could result in carelessness and potentially an accident.

Let's ask another question. Have you ever walked by an unsafe behavior and not spoken up and corrected the action? Unfortunately, this happens too frequently. These unsafe acts need immediate attention.

Admit it, it's easier to do a job with the right tool. Using any tool inappropriately is a step in the wrong direction. To avoid personal injury and tool damage, select the proper tool to do the job safely and with confidence.



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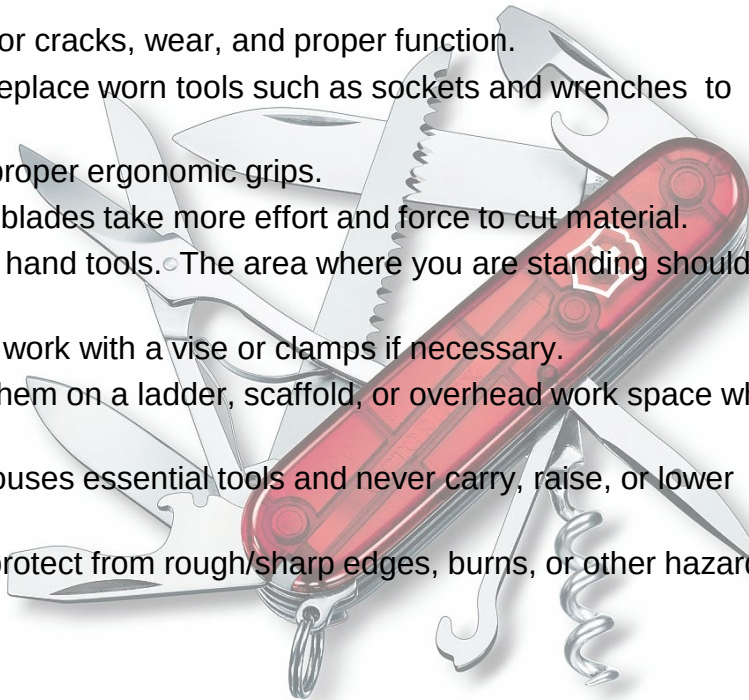
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Use the Right Tool for the Task

Employees must be taught and encouraged to do each and every job in a safe and efficient manner. Share the following tips to help ensure safe use of tools in the workplace:

- Know your limitations and don't be afraid to ask for proper training. Use your tools like a professional!
- Provide training to employees on how to do the job right and monitor subsequent use to ensure policies are followed and training is sufficient.
- Create inspection protocol and inspect tools for cracks, wear, and proper function.
- Repair or replace worn or cut power cords. Replace worn tools such as sockets and wrenches to prevent slippage.
- Provide employees with tools designed with proper ergonomic grips.
- Keep blades sharp! Dull utility knives or saw blades take more effort and force to cut material.
- Keep secure footing and balance when using hand tools. The area where you are standing should not be slippery or cluttered.
- Use tools on a stable work surface. Hold the work with a vise or clamps if necessary.
- Keep tools where they belong. Never leave them on a ladder, scaffold, or overhead work space where they could potentially fall on someone.
- Carry tools properly. Utilize a tool belt that houses essential tools and never carry, raise, or lower power tools by their cords.
- Provide employees with adequate gloves to protect from rough/sharp edges, burns, or other hazards.



Reference: <https://www.wcgroup.com/sites/default/files/toolSafety.pdf>

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When Was Your Last Health and Safety Audit?

When was your last health and safety (H&S) audit? Some can confidently say last week. Others side-step the question as there just hasn't been enough time or resources to complete one. Don't shy away from the benefits of having a H&S audit conducted—it might be the best option you have for improving your company's total H&S program.

Areas of Focus

Compliance Audit – Based on OSHA compliance to determine whether the company is providing a safe and healthy workplace.

Program Audit – Typically an analysis that gauges the implementation and strategy of written safety programs, policies, and procedures.

Management Systems Audit – Evaluation and validation of the effectiveness of and management's commitment to safety compliance and programs, employee involvement, and risk control procedures. The audit examines accountability, effectiveness of the implementation, and integration of the company's H&S program into the overall culture.



What we don't do—hand you a list of findings and say “good luck.” We provide sound guidance and support to assist you with achieving your H&S goals. Contact us today to conduct your H&S Audit!

EHS Support prides itself on providing 'boots-on-the-ground' and getting in where the action is. We dive into your paperwork and records—we get out on the floor and look at your equipment and tools. We evaluate tasks being performed and look for safe and unsafe behaviors. We engage personnel for the one-on-one conversations. We want to help you and your company take your current H&S program to the next level. If you feel your program is exceptional—we can confirm. If your program is basically nonexistent—we can help you build it. If you struggle with getting management's commitment—we provide cost saving solutions and culture change training.

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We are in full swing into the Major League Baseball (MLB) season, as well as Little League (LL) for our soon to be professionals. If you watch some MLB games, you might notice that catchers are not blocking the plate anymore if they don't have the ball, thus, we aren't seeing as many full body crashes with the runner. If you read the LL rules, you will read that it is back to the rulebook for definitive answers. There was an actual change to the MLB rules aimed to protect the players (specifically the catcher) from serious, potentially career-ending injuries. The same rule then carried into LL.

Apparently, the MLB conducts job hazard analyses (JHAs) too. Although the new rule was implemented for the protection of all players, it has not been embraced by everyone on the field. Boston Red Sox catcher A.J. Pierzynski says, "I disagree with it." Pierzynski understands the reasoning behind the rule, but remarks, "You never want to see guys get hurt, and you never want to see guys go down because of it, but it's part of the game I signed up for it." Do you agree?

Responses like these are common when investigation incidents and meeting with supervisors or employees who say, "It is a dangerous job and sometimes injuries just happen," and, "I know the risks and I thrive on them." This attitude is common throughout the industry. So, when new and safer processes are recommended and implemented, many times they are met with resistance. There is no end point to safety—ever. The human factor will always be involved. Changes might take time and need continuous support, but if one incident is prevented, we all win. Game on!

Reference: [USA Today](#)



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Why is it that safety professionals are getting heckled when we provide reminders on basic safety information and then go into a facility to conduct a mock-OSHA audit and find the same type of potential hazards or non-compliance items over and over again? Here is another 'Captain Obvious' photo to serve as a reminder because we still find these issues every single day! We are devoting one section of this newsletter to sharing simple safety reminders that seem 'obvious' to everyone, but are constantly found during walkthroughs.



**Fall Hazard -
Ladder on
unstable base**

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Replace ladder set-up with an extension ladder
- Retrain personnel on safe ladder usage.



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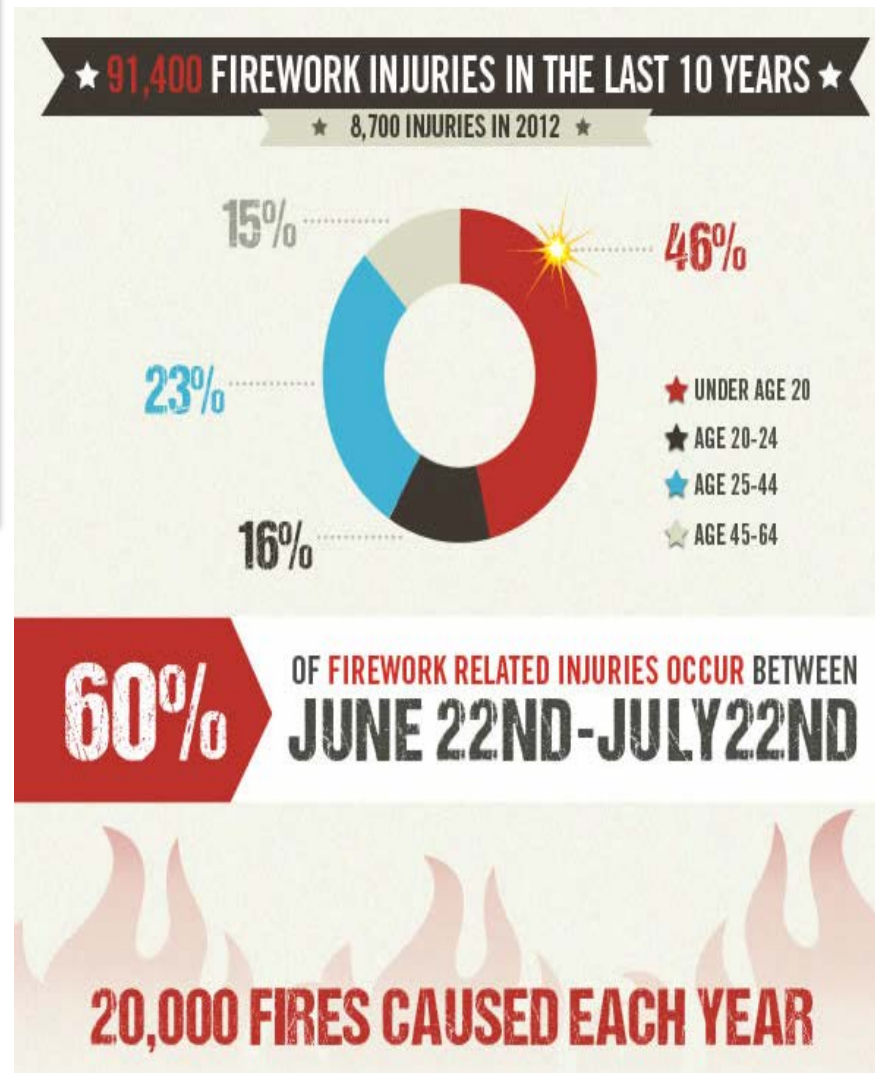
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Contact Monica Meyer at Monica.Meyer@ehs-support.com today to learn more about how we can help you manage your health and safety risks.





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ALWAYS KEEP WATER HANDY WHEN DEALING WITH FIREWORKS



**DO HAVE
FUN!**

Sources for page 10
and 11 graphics listed above

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