



Safety Meeting Outline



SMO 08-1202

WORKPLACE FATALITIES

By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control

United States workplace fatalities fell to the lowest level on record in 2007. There were 5,488 fatal work injuries, a decline from 5,840 in 2006 and 6,217 in 1992. Texas had the most fatal workplace accidents (527) followed by California (407) and Florida (362). Rhode Island, Delaware and Vermont had the fewest (5, 10 and 10, respectively).

On an absolute basis (as opposed to a per capita basis), highway fatalities are the number one killer of people of the job. In fact, workplace fatalities involving transportation typically account for two-fifths (40%) of all on-the-job fatalities. That is why drivers (truckers and salespeople) are consistently among the top ten most dangerous jobs. The majority of accidents stem from tired drivers veering off the road, rather than multi-car accidents.

Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Labor reports show that transportation related workplace fatalities fell to 2,234 – the lowest number since the government started compiling the numbers. Still, the federal report showed some alarming results, not the least of which was the 13% increase of workplace homicides following a series low in 2006.

As with the previous year, the four occupations with the highest fatality rates in 2007 were commercial fishing with a rate of 111.8 per 100,000 workers, logging workers (86.4), aircraft pilots and flight engineers (66.7), and structural iron and steel workers (45.5).

Electrical power line workers (installation and repair) ranked seventh. Major dangers are slip and falls from heights and electrocution from high-voltage lines. Roofers ranked eighth in terms of occupational danger. Most common accident causes are slip and falls from roofs, ladders or scaffolds.

The 392 fatal work injuries in manufacturing represents the lowest total recorded in the five years since the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program began using the North American Industry Classification System. The 2007 total for manufacturing represents a 14% decrease from 2006.

The Department of Labor cited increased outreach to employers by OSHA as a major reason for the decline. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao said in a statement that the data showed the current programs to protect workers are working, and noted that this was the lowest number of fatalities in OSHA history.

At least half of the dangers most associated with occupational fatalities are also among the list of OSHA's top ten violations for 2007: scaffolding, fall protection, powered industrial trucks, ladders and electrical. The corresponding symmetry of the two lists is not a surprise, since it seems to appear year after year.



SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

DEPARTMENT/JOB SITE: _____ MEETING DATE: _____

1. **Open Meeting & Present safety topic:** _____
2. Read minutes from previous meeting.
3. **Persons present:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. **Old Business** – Status of previous recommendations. Discuss pending old business if any.
5. **Accidents** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Brief summary of accidents to date by number and type. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken, or needed. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.
6. **Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.
7. **New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

TIME MEETING STARTED: _____ TIME FINISHED: _____
MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____ TITLE: _____