

Safety *focus*

Unsafe Acts vs Conditions

Workplace accidents/incidents can cause painful injuries and claim lives. On every job, it is important to discuss the factors behind workplace safety hazards (any unsafe behavior or condition that could lead to an injury of a person, or property damage if the behavior or condition is not corrected) and find a way to prevent exposure to them. The cause of an accident/incident can usually be found in two areas -- Unsafe Acts (or Behaviors) and Unsafe Conditions. So what constitutes them?

Unsafe Acts (or Behaviors)

The first factor, **Unsafe Acts or Behaviors**, are the performance of a task or other activity that is conducted in a manner that may threaten health and/or safety of workers. **As a field worker, you can control this factor.**

Examples are:

- Not following APP, JHA, HASP for job task
- Lack of or improper use of PPE
- Disregarding posted warning signs
- Task complacency
- Working too close to electrical lines or hazards
- Failure to lock out/tag out
- Inattention to task and surroundings
- Digging without a current markout
- Operating equipment at unsafe speed or manner
- Failure to warn people in the area of work activity
- Removal or bypass of safety devices
- Use of tools for other than their intended usage
- Use of defective or altered equipment
- Improper repair of equipment
- Horseplay

Unsafe Conditions

The second factor, **Unsafe Conditions** are conditions in the workplace that are likely to cause injury or property damage. **This factor may be caused by co-workers, subcontractors, or preexisting conditions.**

Examples are:

- Defective or incorrect tools or equipment
- Inadequate supports or guards
- Inadequate or compromised warning systems
- Underground utilities
- Fire and explosion hazards
- Lack of fire extinguishers
- Poor or absent electrical grounding

- Poor housekeeping
- Unlabeled containers
- Uneven walking surfaces
- Excessive noise
- Poor ventilation

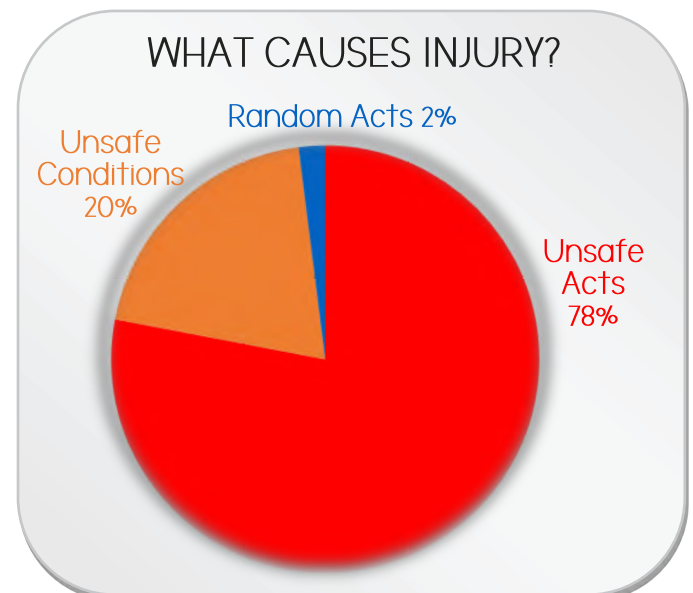
You can take control of Unsafe Conditions, by:

- being aware,
- completing job walks,
- taking the time to do your work safely;
- reporting all unsafe conditions immediately,
- and stopping work until a correction is made.

Please be Safety PROactive and take a few minutes and send us your lists of unsafe acts and unsafe conditions you have come across to ehs@kmea.net

Sources: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/.../fy07_sh-16637-07_acc-injury-prev2.ppt; https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/.../fy12_sh-23529-12_SystemsofSafetyManual.pdf; <https://www.safetymanualosha.com/unsafe-acts/>

SAFETY WATCH



https://www.ehstoday.com/news/ehs_imp_32659