

MBAA Safety Tool Box Talk



Accident Investigation

Overview

The purpose in developing an Accident Investigation Program is to help maintain a safe environment for coworkers, contracted workers and guests. Gathering information in a formalized way on an accident, incident or near-miss can be vital to educating coworkers on the situation involved and preventing repeat occurrences of those events. Identifying the Root Cause of the incident or accident can help forward your brewery's safety program, training practices and culture.

Applicability

Accidents can happen anywhere. Accident Investigation should be utilized in all departments. Those involved in the accident and coworkers from that department should take part in performing the investigation. In turn, the Accident Investigation should then be used as an educational tool to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. Accident Investigations should be used in department meetings and trainings, as well as to supplement any department's Standard Operating Procedures (or S.O.P.'s.)

Accidents in Breweries, Commonality

Breweries in general deal with many of the same safety issues, but on varying scales. For instance, warehouses big and small deal with hazards such as powered industrial vehicles, falling objects and guest safety in their area. In cellars, workers are consistently exposed to hazards from compressed gas and pressurized vessels to chemicals and hot water. Other breweries can act as

a resource for collaboration, information & ideas to solving your brewery's specific issues.

An Essential Program, Made Successful

When done right, Accident Investigation can be an integral part of a robust safety culture, continuity in training and an expansion of S.O.P.'s in all departments. Obtain as much information as you can; interview all workers and bystanders that witnessed the accident. Take pictures of the areas, materials, etc. that were involved and label the pictures to reference later. Perhaps the most important portion of a successful Accident Investigation is timeliness. The sooner you can begin gathering information and taking pictures to develop the investigation, the better off you are. The longer you wait, the less likely you are to obtain accurate and complete information.

Vital Questions for Any Investigation

Regardless of the specific situation or department where the accident occurred, there are some basic questions that should be answered to begin any investigation:

Who was involved in the accident?
Was anyone injured?
If yes, what part of the body?
Did they require medical treatment?
Did they need first aid only?
Was there property damage?
What equipment was being used?
Were there any witnesses?
Were hazardous conditions present?
Did unsafe acts occur?
Has this happened before?

Answering these questions will help paint a picture of the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Root Cause & Corrective Actions

The goal of an accurate Accident Investigation is to identify the Root Cause of the accident. By doing so, you can then explore what Corrective Actions might help rectify the situation. Can the hazard be eliminated? Can coworkers be trained to prevent recurrence?

Where to Get Forms & Information

Insurance and work comp carriers are an excellent resource for obtaining and/or developing Accident Investigation forms and templates.

LINKS

- [OSHA Accident/Incident Investigation Tips and Tools](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
BREWERY SAFETY PROGRAMS,
PLEASE VISIT THE MBAA SAFETY
WEBSITE AT
www.mbaa.com/brewresources