



TenStep Supplemental Paper

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Behavioral Safety

Behavioral safety focuses on investigating an accident beyond the usual scope of inquiry- it investigates the specific behavior that caused the accident.

Behavioral practitioners develop specific methods for measuring important behaviors at the work place. They subsequently train observers to accurately measure the results of the behavior, keeping in mind the specific goals of the site. The key here is proactively targeting behavior that leads to or causes accidents, thereby preventing them.

Behavior and not attitudes

Research reveals that it is relatively easier to change behavior than attitude. Therefore, behaviorists only focus on changing behavior.

Apart from collecting hard data, observers are trained to discuss deviations from procedures to determine why they are occurring. Though deviations could occur due to lethargy, more often than not the deviations are a symptom of fundamental causes that should be determined as the problem. The main aim of observers is to know the actual or underlying factors that hinder the improvement of safety programs.

The managers' role here is to support the cause by allowing employees to take measures and implement the recommendations for improving safety behavior. Very often, the main reason for the failure of behavioral interventions is a lack of management support.