



SAFETY ADVISOR

JUNE 2024 – WEEK 3

June is National Safety Month !

Week 3 Focus: Risk Reduction (June 17-21)

By Keith Myhre

Central Office, FDOT Occupational Safety and Health Programs

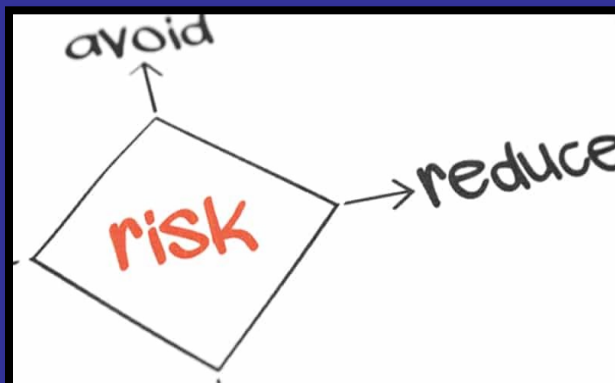
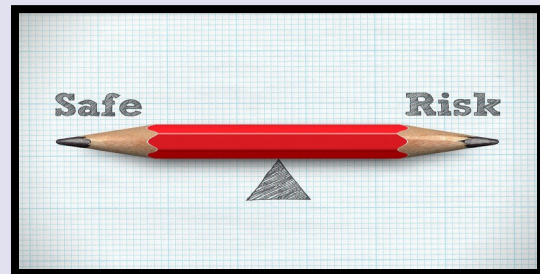
This is our third Safety Advisor for the month of June, and this week's focus is Risk Reduction. Similar to last week's focus on roadway safety, risk reduction is broad in its applications. Risk itself is often tied with an occurrence of something to avoid. But it can be something positive in its final outcome as well. It can be applied to investing money, driving without insurance, buying a home, behaviors that can affect your health or conditions within our working environment, and using PPE. In many ways we are taking multiple risks daily without thinking twice about it. Some risks are minor, while others are major and may inadvertently involve others. So, risk reduction is a method or strategy incorporated into the target area, minimizing or removing the negative consequence. This week, we look at some risk reduction examples. Some methods are as simple as observation and communication.

Week 1: Safety Engagement/CPR & AED

Week 2: Roadway Safety

Week 3: Risk Reduction (June 17-21)

Week 4: Slips, Trips and Falls



In This Issue:

- *Risk Reduction Week*
- *Workplace Risk Reduction*
- *The Value of Safety Inspections*
- *Did You Know: Risk Reduction in the Workplace*

Risk Reduction

Actions taken or designed to reduce or remove a negative incident or consequence by identifying inherent risks, then reducing their likelihood or severity.

Approaches to Risk Reduction

There are many ways to approach risk reduction. Each organization has its own methodology tailored toward its industry's specific risks and qualities. It's best to ensure that your approach to risk reduction fits your company and its operations. So, let's talk about some of the different approaches to risk reduction to make it easier to determine the best fit for your company.

Risk Assessment & Identification

The first step in reducing risks is identifying and assessing the risks your company faces throughout operations. So, make sure to take the time to conduct risk audits and inspections to determine your risks, assess them, and rank them based on severity or urgency. .

Risk Mitigation

Once you've identified the different risks, you can find ways to minimize or reduce them. Again, it's best to tailor your risk mitigation strategy according to your company or organization's needs. These practices should be designed to minimize and reduce the risk that the company and its workers face throughout operations.

Preventive Measures

Additionally, you can look for preventive measures that you can put in place to keep workers safe during operations. It takes a comprehensive approach if you're looking to reduce risks and keep your operations as safe and efficient as possible. So, make sure that you have preventive measures in place to protect workers and the company.

Contingency Planning

There will be times that you encounter problems and issues with your operations, regardless of how many risk reduction and mitigation controls are in place. That's why risk reduction should include contingency planning, which gives you a blueprint to follow in the event of an emergency. That way, you aren't running around without any direction trying to solve a problem.

Monitoring & Review

Monitoring your risk reduction approaches and practices is important to ensure they work. This will help you identify potential problem areas or areas for improvement. By doing this, you will continuously improve your operations while reducing risk.

The Value of Safety Inspections

From the FDOT Safety and Loss Prevention Manual

By Keith Myhre

Central Office, FDOT Occupational Safety and Health Programs

The purpose of safety inspections is to identify and minimize hazards, risks, and unsafe work practices. Unit managers should ensure that safety inspections of work activities and facilities are conducted on a regular basis. Safety inspections must be made an integral part of the function of a supervisor or a designated safety person.

Regularly conduct safety inspections of all work operations and facilities for which they are responsible. This includes inspections performed on a routine daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Inspection checklists should be used as a guide for consistency and uniformity. This may include facility-only inspections (fire, mechanical, chemical), vehicle and/or heavy equipment inspections, powered tools, personal protective equipment, roadway maintenance safety, heat, hearing, fall protection, and first-aid-related equipment and supplies.

Inspections should include employee training records for individuals on specific equipment or job-specific training credentials.

If deficiencies are identified, they must be documented with proper actions for correction, repair, or training to be identified. Follow-up inspections should then be taken to verify the correction has been properly addressed.

Records for all inspections should be kept for at least 12 months and should be available to others in the specific unit for reference.

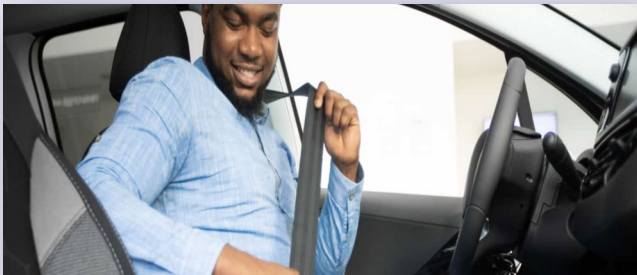
The Safety and Loss Prevention Manual has multiple references to inspection types, frequencies, and responsibilities, as well as references to forms and checklists for documentation and follow-up.



Did You Know? Risk Reduction in the Workplace

Our FDOT Safety and Loss Prevention Manual prepares all staff, in multiple areas of risk reduction in the workplace. In our highly varying work environments, reducing risk is incorporated within the following methods (to name a few):

- *Wearing a seat belt while driving*
- *Driving the posted speed limit*
- *Safety training with new staff*
- *Safety training on new equipment*
- *Wearing required PPE*
- *Conduct fire safety inspections*
- *Conduct chemical storage inspections*
- *Conduct vehicle inspections*
- *Problem focused safety meetings*
- *Hazard recognition & communication training*
- *Conduct vehicle and equipment maintenance*
- *Teach work zone safety*
- *Provide materials handling training*



The Safety Advisor is distributed electronically to all FDOT staff monthly to promote indoor and outdoor workplace safety and generate an overall awareness of safety in our lives. It is produced monthly by the State Safety Office in Tallahassee, Florida.

For content information or ideas, please email Keith Myhre

Keith.Myhre@dot.state.fl.us

See Department safety information at: <https://www.fdot.gov/safety>

Anonymously report hazards in your workplace: (850) 414-5255

