

Manager/Supervisor Risk Management

#166–8/13/13

A twice weekly e-mail training for YCPARMIA members

TOPIC: SAFETY –YCPARMIA’S ROLE/SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

YCPARMIA’s role in loss prevention is to assist our members in their internal loss prevention efforts. YCPARMIA does not take on the responsibility for creating and maintaining their safe workplace; instead we offer the technical expertise (including a Certified Safety Professional) and resources that are absent in many of our members’ operations. Leadership and responsibility for results remains with the individual member – YCPARMIA is there to help. Take it as a given, that if a member expresses a safety or training need, we will find a way to help – usually at no cost to the member.

For a variety of business reasons, most of our members’ safety efforts lack direction and consistency. None of our members have staff dedicated to safety; it is an added responsibility for selected people that have other pressing job duties. Intentions might be good, but we are often getting activity rather than results. There are a number of common examples that we see with some regularity:

- Premise inspections that do not lead to repairs;
- Accident investigations that do not identify a cause or preventive action;
- Safety Committee’s that do not meet or report up the chain;
- Safety policies that are outdated or kept from impacted staff;
- Inadequate or untimely training, and a lack of records; and
- Staff inaction until something goes wrong, or OSHA shows up.

The most valuable loss preventive service that YCPARMIA offers is to provide input on how an effective safety program is supposed to operate. Unfortunately in some of our members and departments, it is not a message that is well received. We are probably not talking about any greater investment of staff time or resources; it is just a matter of working a safety plan. In this area, private industry is far ahead of public entities. An injury for them means a loss of profit. Management performance and bonuses are sometimes tied to a zero tolerance for injury, and therefore loss prevention becomes a critical job expectation for everyone.

Maybe the biggest thing missing from our members’ safety programs are measurable goals. “We will have no injuries” or “we will reduce injuries by 50%” would be reasonable objectives. If something like that was in place, the Safety Committees would have a purpose, rather than just having the meeting be an end in and of itself.

So what is YCPARMIA’s loss prevention role? Our role is defined by our members’ needs and interests. In that we cannot function as their safety department, we are limited to providing the technical expertise and direction that will give them a better return on their investment of resources and staff. Each member brings a different set of expectations to the process; it is our hope that our members make use of YCPARMIA’s services in working towards fulfilling their loss prevention goals.

Next Topic: Safety – Reality Check