

1 Working Together to Provide a Safe and Healthy Workplace

Safety and health within the federal government is everyone's concern. Each job has its unique problems and risks, ranging from high noise levels, through exposure to pesticides, to mental stress. However, every problem has a solution, and risks can be minimized. The Occupational Safety and Health Program was developed to solve problems and to minimize risks in the workplace. Its aim is to promote the physical, mental, and social well-being of every employee in a federal workplace.

All federal organizations are responsible for ensuring that Occupational Safety and Health Programs are established to cover such important areas as Occupational Safety and Health Committees, accident prevention, first aid, and fire emergencies.

The prevention of accidents and the provision of a safe and healthy work environment are recognized as matters of major importance. Unsafe and unhealthy working conditions affect not only the well-being of employees, but also the efficiency of the workplace. They can result in employee injuries and illnesses, loss of work time and productivity, higher operating costs, and, most importantly, individual pain and family suffering.