

Managing health & safety



Whether you are a large corporation or a small business with only a couple of employees, it can be a challenge to manage health and safety. Maybe you don't think you have the budget or the dedicated staff for an effective health and safety management system. Or perhaps you think the odds of one of your workers getting hurt on the job are so slim that it's not worth the time and money. But in fact, a plan for managing the health and safety of you and your employees should be an essential part of your business, for several reasons.

Fewer injuries and less occupational disease

By creating a safer workplace, a plan for managing health and safety can result in fewer and fewer workplace incidents and less occupational illness. It also helps the company comply with health and safety legislation and standards.

The bottom line

Besides reducing costs, effective safety and health management makes a business more efficient. Injuries cost money. Work doesn't get done or takes longer than expected. Work-related diseases and ill health are more difficult to measure because they often take a long time to appear, but they can result in many days being lost at work every year.

See you in court

Everyone is responsible for health and safety in the workplace, and everyone has a role to play in making sure the workplace follows either provincial or federal legislation. For employers, this is especially true. That means they have a legal responsibility to be proactive in managing health and safety or they may be faced with legal consequences.

What's wrong with health and safety?

Keeping people safe and healthy is never a bad idea. Can you really make an argument against measures that don't hurt anyone?

How IHSA can help

IHSA.ca Magazine is a great resource filled with suggestions and strategies that can help any company build a strong health and safety management system.

The **IHSA.ca** website has a section on **Policy and Program Templates** that can help you create and implement a successful health and safety program.

IHSA.ca also contains a section for small businesses. Visit ihsa.ca/smallbusiness to see what IHSA can do to help build your small business health and safety program.

