

OHS Program:

What is an occupational health and safety program?

The employer's plan for preventing incidents, injuries and occupational diseases is called an occupational health and safety (OHS) program. Implementing an OHS program demonstrates the employer's commitment to providing a healthy and safe workplace. WorkplaceNL promotes an OHS program made up of ten core elements:

1. Leadership and administration
2. OHS committee
3. Education and training
4. Communication
5. Safe work practices and procedures
6. Hazard recognition, evaluation and control
7. Workplace inspections
8. Incident investigations
9. Emergency preparedness and response
10. Disability management

Ergonomics

is incorporated into each element of the OHS program to prevent musculoskeletal injuries (MSI)

Every OHS program is different and are based on the identified hazards and risks of specific workplaces. For example, an OHS program for a hospital will be uniquely different from a construction company. Some employers may have more elements in their OHS program due to higher-risk work activities. Some workplaces may call their elements by a different name.



Who is responsible for developing an OHS program?

Employers with 20 or more workers must have an OHS program. However, even workplaces with less than 20 workers will benefit from the development of an OHS program. Once developed, an OHS program must be kept current and effective. Programs must be reviewed, signed, dated and posted by the employer every three years or when changes occur.

An OHS program benefits everyone.

Workplaces where OHS is a part of doing business have many benefits.



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