

Accident/Incident Investigation – Appendix A: Definitions

Accident - an event or incident that results in an injury or illness to an employee or property damage

Catastrophe - when two or more employees are fatally injured, or three or more employees are admitted to a hospital or clinic as a result of the same event

Confidential - containing information whose unauthorized disclosure could be prejudicial

Direct Cause - the immediate reason why the accident/near-miss occurred

Exposure - experiencing something or being affected by it because of being in a particular situation or place. A specific event with the potential for contracting illness when blood or other potentially infectious materials are involved.

Hazard - a condition that has a potential to cause harm

Hospitalization – formal admission to the in-patient service of a hospital or clinic for care or treatment

Illness - an unhealthy condition of body or mind as a result of exposure to a health hazard

Imminent Danger – a situation that poses a threat of danger or serious physical harm that could occur within a short time; a dangerous condition that is not normal for a job or that a person would not normally work under. Note: the harm caused by the hazard does not have to happen immediately; it is the threat of harm that must be immediate or imminent.

Incident - an event that had the potential to result in injury or illness, but no such outcomes were noted; a near-miss.

Injury - hurt, damage, or loss sustained as a result of exposure to a physical hazard

Investigation - to observe or study by close examination and systematic inquiry

Lost-time Injury - an injury sustained on the job that results in the loss of productive work time

Near-miss - an incident that could/would have caused serious illness, injury, or death if the situation had been different

Root Cause - the underlying issues that leads to an unsafe condition or unsafe acts causing an accident or near-miss

Surface Cause - conditions that lead to a direct cause of an accident or near miss