

Safety Committee

Safety Committee

OR-OSHA has adopted rules that require employers with 11 or more employees to establish a safety committee.

The safety committee shall be composed of an equal number of employer-selected and employee-elected members. Employee members shall be volunteers or elected by their peers, unless there is a provision in the collective bargaining agreement that addresses the selection of employee members. Members of the committee shall serve at least a continuous one year term. Terms shall be staggered to provide continuity. Members shall represent major areas of activity in the College whenever possible. There shall be a chair elected by the safety committee. Employee members attending safety committee meetings shall be compensated by the employer at the regular hourly wage for duties that extend beyond regular working hours.

The safety committee will:

1. Hold regular meetings monthly except months when quarterly workplace safety inspections are made. This does not exclude other months from safety committee meetings if more frequent safety inspections are conducted. Quarterly safety committee meetings may be substituted for monthly meetings when the committee's sole area of responsibility involves low hazard work environments such as the office;
2. Provide written agendas for each meeting which shall set the order of business;
3. Make written records of each meeting which the employer shall review and maintain for three years for inspection;
4. Post and send copies of meeting records to all employees;
5. Assist in creating a hazard-free work environment by:
 - a. Recommending to the employer how to eliminate hazards in the workplace and promote employee adherence to safe work practices; and
 - b. Using lines of communications to promote cooperative attitudes between all persons involved in the operations of the workplace.

Duties of the safety committee will include:

1. Establishing procedures for minimum quarterly workplace safety inspections of a safety committee inspection team to locate and identify safety and health hazards. The safety inspection team shall include employer and employee representatives and shall document the location and identity of the hazards and make recommendations as to how and when the hazards will be corrected;
2. Establishing procedures for investigating all significant safety-related incidents including injury accidents, illnesses and deaths for the purpose of recommending corrective action necessary to prevent similar events from recurring;
3. Evaluating employer policies which may affect safety and health in the workplace and make recommendations for changes to existing policies or adoption of new policies;
4. Evaluating all the accident and illness prevention programs brought to the committee's attention and making recommendations necessary to make the programs more applicable to the workplace;
5. Establishing a system whereby the safety committee can obtain information directly from all persons involved in the operations of the workplace that would help in creating a hazard-free work environment. The information obtained shall be reviewed at the next safety committee meeting;
6. Establishing procedures for the review of all safety and health inspection reports made by the committee and making necessary recommendations;
7. Establishing procedures for the review of corrective action taken on the committee's recommendations or determining the reasons why no corrective action was taken;
8. Making all reports, evaluations and recommendations of the safety committee a part of the minutes of the safety committee;
9. Evaluating employee/supervisor training needs.

Degree of Authority

The safety committee is authorized to make written recommendations and suggestions to administration, based on its experiences, inspections and input from other employees, students and patrons, as appropriate.