

ANSI/ASSP Resource Guide:

Incident Investigation



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS
STANDARDS



Resources

Introduction

This guide brings together a variety of materials to support EHS professionals in conducting thorough and effective incident investigations. It's designed to help you identify root causes, strengthen corrective actions and build a stronger safety culture.

ASSP Technical Publications & Tools

[Accident Investigation Techniques, Third Edition](#)

Peter Sturm and Jeffrey Oakley provide a concise comparison of accident/incident investigation techniques that can be used to help companies and safety professionals analyze accidents and feel assured that the causes have been properly determined and that corrective actions will prevent reoccurrence.

This third edition updates the second edition and covers all aspects of accident investigation from theory to organizing, gathering and analyzing data, to reporting, recommendations, and follow-up. This edition integrates the new research, updates the relevant references, and introduces changes that have occurred and continue to occur as workplace safety and investigations evolve and improve.

[Safety Trekr AI™](#)

ASSP's Safety Trekr AI streamlines incident investigations by giving safety professionals instant access to expert guidance from the "Safety Professionals Handbook". It helps identify causal factors, create checklists and reference best practices without extra searching, supporting thorough root-cause analysis, clear documentation and effective corrective actions in real time.

[Conducting an Effective Workplace Incident Investigation: What You Need to Know](#)

In this episode of "The Case for Safety Podcast," Peter Sturm, co-author of the third edition of "Accident Investigation Techniques: Best Practices for Examining Workplace Incidents," shares tips and techniques for conducting effective incident investigations.

American National Standards

[ANSI/ASSP Z10.0-2019 OHS Management Systems](#)

Within the standard, Section 9 offers guidance on conducting incident investigations and includes the following summary:

Incidents may be a symptom of deficiencies in the OHSMS. The ultimate goal is to identify hazards and underlying system deficiencies before any injury or illness occurs. Findings from incident investigations should be used for developing and implementing corrective action plans. Lessons learned from these investigations can then be fed into the planning or corrective action processes. The incident investigation process should define what needs to be investigated; timeframes for an investigation; who should participate; and how recommendations to prevent recurrence should be generated and communicated. In order for incidents to be investigated, they must be reported. Organizations should ensure all barriers to reporting are removed as per Sections 5.2 and 7.3 of this standard.

[ASSP GM-Z10.100-2024 Guidance & Implementation Manual for ANSI/ASSP Z10.0-2019](#)

This document offers extensive content on incident investigation, including a practical six-page checklist to guide the process (p. 95–103).

Incidents are an observable indicator of potential problems in the OHSMS. Too often, only incidents that result in reportable injuries or major damage are investigated. However, most incidents are preceded by warnings, close calls, or near misses. Incident investigations should be used as a tool to prevent similar incidents from reoccurring in the future. The purpose of any incident investigation is to identify underlying root causes and contributing factors and to recommend solutions that address these causes and factors. The goal is to identify hazards and implement corrective measures, including system and design improvements that will prevent the reoccurrence of injury or illness. Incident investigations should include root cause analysis to identify opportunities for improvements that lead to developing and implementing sustainable corrective action plans. Lessons learned from these investigations should be fed into the planning or corrective action processes.



Training Materials

[Risk-Based Incident Analysis | Course](#)

Incident analysis involves collecting data and evidence and performing interviews to identify causal factors and root causes. One aspect of data quality is the ability to standardize data points, so trend analysis is viable. Getting to root cause yields numerous lessons learned opportunities if the right data is collected and analyzed.

In this course, incident analysis does not focus only on the individual incident, but explains how to categorize and organize trends so areas of common weakness become apparent. Risk-centric concepts, like hazard classification, as well as the hierarchy of controls, if incorporated into incident analysis, can yield valuable insights into common weakness in your management system and risk assessment methodology. The course also uses an automotive industry 8D (discipline) process.

[Turning Over the Right Stones: Keys to Building an Incident Investigation Process That Delivers Results | Webinar](#)

Knowing how to effectively investigate an adverse event is critical to identifying and resolving key weaknesses in the systems and critical controls you rely on to prevent harm. However, without a systematic approach to incident investigations, organizations risk spending their limited resources on the wrong things, allowing underlying problems to continue unaddressed and increasing the risk of future incidents.

[Accident Investigations & the International Investigation Standard | Webinar](#)

Workplace incidents, injuries illnesses and fatalities remain a critical concern for every organization. Explore the world's only global standard for workplace incident investigations, gain prevention insights drawn from more than 30 years of investigative experience at one of North America's largest workers' compensation boards and take away practical strategies and tools featured in "Accident Investigation Techniques".

[Incident Investigation Certificate | Professional Certificate](#)

The ASSP Incident Investigation Certificate is designed to help you expand your influence, improve workplace safety and strengthen organizational learning. You'll learn proven strategies for leading thorough, unbiased investigations that go beyond surface-level causes to reveal why incidents occur and how to prevent them. Through practical exercises and real-world scenarios, you'll develop essential skills in evidence collection, root cause analysis and corrective action planning.