# Safety Committee Toolkit

Prepared for:

Date:

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Our safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are made solely to assist your organization in reducing hazards and the potential of hazards and accidents. These recommendations were developed from conditions observed and information provided at the time of our visit. They do not attempt to identify every possible loss potential, hazard or risk, nor do they guarantee that workplace accidents will be prevented. These safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are not a substitute for ongoing, well-researched internal safety and risk management programs. This report does not warrant that the property inspected, and its operations are compliant with any law, rule or regulation.

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### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This plan was developed to bring employees and management together to help achieve and maintain a safe and healthy workplace. The safety committee will advise management and employees on safety matters pertaining to overall company operations.

#### II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the safety committee is to improve health and safety in the workplace by helping to identify problems and resolve concerns. This is done, in part, by:

- Helping management identify, assess and control hazards
- Identify current employee injury trends within the organization
- Helping to establish and promote a positive safety culture
- Providing a channel of communication between management and workers
- Conducting regular inspections
- Talking with workers about health and safety concerns
- Helping management develop and monitor policies, plans and programs
- Meeting to discuss concerns and make recommendations for corrective action

#### III. SCOPE

The success of the safety committee will require representation, commitment and involvement at all levels of the organization: employees, supervisors and administration. The safety committee will elect a chairperson and the chairperson will meet with administration on a regular basis to provide an update on the progress of the committee.

#### IV. PURPOSE

The safety committee will meet at regular intervals proactively address safety concerns, discuss accidents and preventative measures and assist management in evaluating safety policies and procedures. In addition, the safety committee will encourage employee involvement and promote safety in the workplace.

#### V. GUIDELINES

- a) Management will develop guidelines for the safety committee. At a minimum, the guidelines will cover:
  - Frequency of meetings
  - Time and place of meetings
  - Members (management and employee representation from all departments)
  - Attendance requirements
  - Meeting agenda topics
  - Committee members' roles and responsibilities
  - Committee members' terms
  - Meeting minutes and documentation
  - Handling of confidential information
- b) The committee and management will establish priorities for activities. Items to consider include:
  - Goals to eliminate known or potential loss sources
  - Safety education for employees, supervisors and committee members
  - Safety inspections to help identify and control workplace hazards

- Review of facility/equipment/operational/process changes from a safety standpoint
- Job hazard analysis (JHA)
- Annual review of safety policies and procedures

#### VI. ORGANIZATION

The safety committee will be comprised of employees representing all departments of the organization as well as volunteer employee representatives elected by their peers. Management will consider rotating the employee representatives after serving on the committee for a set term. Since the safety committee needs a level of authority to correct unsafe conditions, the committee will always include a member of the management team. Members may be added or supplemented at any time based on new direction or special projects.

#### VII. MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

Qualities of a strong safety committee member include, but are not limited to:

- Interested in safety and health issues in the workplace
- Respected by management and colleagues
- Displays leadership skills
- Familiar with organization's operations, policies and procedures
- Interested in the needs of the entire work force
- Willing to attend meetings and work on projects
- Receptive to new ideas

#### VIII. CONDUCTING A SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The following is a sample committee meeting process:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Review and approve minutes of the previous meeting
- Unfinished business
- Review of accidents and determine corrective actions
- Safety education (a member will discuss a new topic at each meeting)
- Inspection and recommendation review
- New business
- Assignments for next meeting
- Adjournment

#### IX. TYPICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

The following is a list of typical safety committee duties/responsibilities.

- · Safety inspections detect unsafe physical conditions, including follow-up on past recommendations
- Accident investigations determine specific preventative actions that have been or should be taken
- Safety committee meetings review the two items from above and carry forward new issues brought up from a variety of sources, such as new laws, new processes, injury trends, etc.
- Injury/loss review committee determines injury causes in a group setting with the injured employee and supervisor involved
- Job safety observations (JSO) conduct employee observations on a wide variety of circumstances, such as new employees, follow-up on accident investigations, new processes, etc.



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- Job hazard evaluations for new or existing jobs or to comply with outside standards
   Example: OSHA PPE standard
- Potential topics to cover with the committee and OSHA regulations:
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE), hazard communication (HAZCOM), bloodborne pathogens, lockout/tag out procedures, ergonomics, emergency procedures, housekeeping, and other topics relevant to the health and safety of the organizations employees

#### X. HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTIONS

The committee is responsible for conducting safety and health inspections in the workplace. Self-inspections are essential in helping identify where probable hazards exist and whether they are under control. These assessments provide indication of where to begin and safety changes to implement. The checklists serve as a starting point and will likely need to be edited as the needs of the business evolve.

For assistance developing a checklist specific to the needs of your organization, contact you United Heartland loss control consultant. For more information on self-inspections, refer to <u>OSHA's website</u>.

#### XI. STATE REQUIREMENTS

To ensure your organization is compliant with state safety committee requirements, contact your Department of Labor, local OSHA office, workers' compensation board or applicable agency.

Refer to the OSHA: Safety and Health Programs in the States White Paper for additional state plan requirements.

Date Adopted:

Date Revised:

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

A copy of this report should be kept on file and posted in a central employee area for review.

Meeting Details		
Company Name:	Date/Time of Meeting:	
Members Present:		

ORDER OF BUSINESS	Responsible Person	Proposed Completion Date
Review of Prior Minutes		
Old Business		
•		
•		
•		
New Business		
•		
•		
•		
Facility Inspection Review		
•		
•		
•		
Incident & Injury Reports (since last meeting)		
•		
•		
•		
General Comments or Other Business		
•		
•		
Date and time of next meeting:		

Chairperson Name

Date



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### **SELF-EVALUATION CHECKLIST**

Complete this form individually or together with the committee. A 'yes' response confirms the organization is fully meeting the intent. For any items that require improvement or are not being completed, select 'no' or 'N/A' depending on which response is most appropriate. The line items defined below follow general safety committee best practices and may not include all state specific requirements.

Facility Name

Assessed By

Date

PURPOSE	YES	NO	N/A
The safety committee brings workers and management together in a non-adversarial, cooperative effort to promote safety and health.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The safety committee goals and objectives aligned with corporate goals and objectives.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The safety committee or safety meetings assist the employer in making continuous improvement to the safety and health programs.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Comments:			
FORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP			
The committee has equal representation of management and non-management employees.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Most of the members of the safety committee agreed on a chairperson.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Members serve a minimum of one year when possible.	□ Yes	🗆 No	□ N/A
Committee members represent the major activities/departments of the business.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety meetings held on company time.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety meeting attendees paid at their regular rate of pay.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety meetings are held at a routine frequency.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Meetings include at least one employer representative authorized to ensure correction of safety and health issues.	□ Yes	🗆 No	□ N/A
Comments:			

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TRAINING			
Committee members have been trained on the principles of accident and incident investigation.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Committee members have training in hazard identification.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Comments:		<u> </u>	
COMMITTEE MEETINGS			
Committee members provided with the meeting minutes.	□ Yes	🗆 No	□ N/A
Written records of each safety committee meeting kept for three years.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
<ul> <li>Written records include each of these elements:</li> <li>Names of attendees</li> <li>Meeting date</li> <li>All safety and health issues discussed, including tools, equipment, work environment and work practice hazards identified</li> <li>Recommendations for corrective action and a reasonable date by which management agrees to respond</li> <li>Person responsible for follow-up on any recommended corrective actions</li> <li>All reports, evaluations and recommendations made by the committee</li> </ul>	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
The safety committee works with management to establish, amend or adopt accident investigation procedures that will identify and correct hazards.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The safety committee has a system that allows employees an opportunity to report hazards and safety and health related suggestions.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The safety committee established procedures for reviewing inspection reports and for making recommendations to management.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The safety committee evaluates all accident and incident investigations and makes recommendations for ways to prevent similar events from occurring.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A

Safety committee ensures meeting minutes are available for all employees to review.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The safety committee evaluates management's accountability system for safety and health and recommends improvements. Examples include use of incentives, discipline and evaluating success in controlling safety and health hazards.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Comments:			
INSPECTIONS			
The safety committee established procedures for conducting workplace safety and health inspections.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Comments:			
CENTRALIZED SAFETY COMMITTEE			
If a centralized safety committee has been formed because the organization has multiple locations – the committee represents the safety and health concerns of all locations.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The centralized safety committee meets the requirements for safety committees.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
<ul> <li>The centralized safety committee has a written safety and health policy that:</li> <li>Represents management commitment</li> <li>Requires and describes effective employee involvement</li> <li>Describes how the company will hold employees and managers accountable for safety and health</li> <li>Explains specific methods for identifying and correcting safety and health hazards at each location</li> <li>Includes an annual written comprehensive review of the committees' activities to determine effectiveness</li> </ul>	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Comments:			<u> </u>



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DISCUSSION			
<ul> <li>Safety committee meetings include discussions of:</li> <li>Safety and health issues</li> <li>Injuries since last meeting</li> <li>Incident/injury trends</li> <li>Accident investigations, causes and suggested corrective actions</li> </ul>	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Comments:			
OTHER			
	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A

#### Notes:

### HAZARD ASSESSMENT FORM

The committee is responsible for conducting safety and health inspections in the workplace. Self-inspections are essential in helping identify where probable hazards exist and whether they are under control. These assessments provide indication of where to begin and safety changes to implement. The checklists serve as a starting point and will likely need to be edited as the needs of the business evolve.

For assistance developing a checklist specific to the needs of your organization, contact you United Heartland loss control consultant. For more information on self-inspections, refer to <u>OSHA's website</u>.

A 'yes' response confirms the organization is fully meeting the intent. For any items that require improvement or are not being completed, select 'no' or 'N/A' depending on which response is most appropriate.

Facility Name		

Date

POLICY & PROGRAM			
A formal, written safety program is in place, posted and/or issued to all employees and reviewed/updated periodically.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety procedures/rules are actively enforced.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Efforts are in place to identify, analyze and develop strategies for reducing or eliminating risk.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Adequate personnel have been assigned, trained and given the time needed to ensure that safety programs are supported.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Supervisors are held accountable for safety.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
An active safety committee meets regularly and has a clear mission.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A safety coordinator has been assigned to lead committee efforts.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety champions have been designated for each location with assigned responsibilities.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A formal driving policy is in place – this policy includes mandatory annual motor vehicle record checks.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The driving policy prohibits the use of cell phone and other electronic devices while driving.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A formal footwear policy is in place for all facilities staff.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
EMPLOYEE HIRING			
Hiring practices include job-specific screenings such as physical/functional capacity, drug screens and motor vehicle record checks.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A

Assessed By

New employees are required to complete a comprehensive safety orientation program.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
EMPLOYEE TRAINING			
Supervisors receive training on topics such as impact of injuries, loss trends, as well as their roles and responsibilities in safety.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Job-specific safety training is conducted for all employees (check all that apply):  Lockout/tagout – electrical  Chemical safety/safety data sheets Bloodborne pathogens Material handling Personal protective equipment (PPE) Ladder safety Powered industrial truck Confined space Grounds equipment Floor cleaning/maintenance equipment Floor cleaning/maintenance equipment Defensive driving Emergency action plans Fire protection	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety trainings are documented for all necessary programs annually.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Employees are provided hands on, knowledge-based training at the time of hire, annually, following an incident or near miss and whenever unsafe behaviors or practices are observed.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Safety communications elevate awareness about loss leaders (e.g., strains/sprains; slips, trips and falls, struck by/against injuries, motor vehicle crashes, etc.).	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Employees are trained on proper accident reporting procedures.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	🗆 Yes	□ No	□ N/A
INJURY MANAGEMENT			
Formal accident reporting procedures are in place.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A formal post-injury program is in place which includes a prompt reporting requirement.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Procedures are in place for thorough root cause investigation.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A process to identify and implement preventative measures and/or corrective actions has been developed.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A formal modified duty program is in place.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A

Guidelines for developing job-specific tasks to accommodate work restrictions are in place.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A designated medical provider has been identified for the organization.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Designated supervisory staff maintain regular communication with injured workers.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Communication is planned and maintained among all parties (e.g., employer, employee, medical provider, and insurance provider) to ensure efficient claim management.	□ Yes	🗆 No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
HAZARD-SPECIFIC SAFETY PROGRAMS			
<ul> <li>The following hazard-specific safety programs and/or policies are in place (check all that apply):</li> <li>Active shooter program</li> <li>Behavior management program</li> <li>Footwear policy</li> <li>Winter safety program</li> <li>Fleet safety program</li> <li>Athletic participation policy</li> <li>Contractor safety policy</li> <li>Chemical hygiene program</li> </ul>	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A process for equipment safety assessment (donation, installation, relocation and/or modification) is in place	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
JOB-SPECIFIC EXPOSURES			
Manual Material Handling			
Vendors are responsible for delivering products to designated storage areas.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Employees are required to use appropriate equipment for specific tasks (e.g., desk/chair movers, carts, dollies, pallet jacks, forklifts, etc.).	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Team lift criteria in place for any large, awkwardly shaped items or when requested.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Items that weigh 25 lbs. or more are stored at waist height.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Personal protective equipment is provided to employees when needed.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
<ul> <li>Physically challenging tasks have been eliminated or are controlled (check all that apply):</li> <li>Lifting overfilled trash containers/bags</li> <li>Lifting trash containers/bags over shoulder into dumpster</li> <li>Cafeteria tables – lifting/moving alone</li> <li>Lifting items more than 50 lbs.</li> <li>Food or supplies handling and transport</li> <li>Other (specify):</li> </ul>	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A

JOB-SPECIFIC EXPOSURES			
Slips/Trips/Falls			
Employees are required to wear slip-resistant footwear.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Manufacturer instructions for floor cleaning products are followed.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Floors are regularly inspected and thoroughly cleaned to remove water, grease, spilled food products, condensation, or other liquids.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
The following are readily available to remove slip/fall exposures (check all that apply):   Mops/squeegees   Floor fans   Wet/dry vac   Caution signs   Anti-slip mats   Step ladder/step stools   Anti-slip floor mats   Step stools/ladders/mobile stairs   Traction control devices (snow/ice)	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Wet floor signs are conveniently stored in kitchen and common areas and available for use.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A snow/ice removal program is in place and includes formal inspection process.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Motorized snow removal equipment is provided and used.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Interior and exterior site inspections are conducted to identify slip, trip, and fall hazards.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Approved ladders are provided to staff and required when working at heights.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Ladders are inspected prior to each use and removed from service if defects are found.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Approved steps stools are conveniently stored and available for use.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A written fall prevention plan is in place and enforcing appropriate equipment to be used when working at heights (e.g., bulb/fixture replacement, HVAC filter changes, orchestra pits, stages, catwalks, balconies, loading docks, etc.).	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	🗆 Yes	□ No	□ N/A
JOB-SPECIFIC EXPOSURES			
Lacerations/Punctures			
Cut-resistant gloves are required when working with sharp objects.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Appropriate tools and equipment are provided and used.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Tools and equipment are inspected.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Saws and related mechanical devices are inspected and properly guarded.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Broken glass or other sharp objects are stored in separate containers for disposal.	🗆 Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Box cutters with retractable blades are provided/used.	🗆 Yes	□ No	□ N/A

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Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
JOB-SPECIFIC EXPOSURES			
Chemical Safety			
Personal protective equipment is provided/used when working with chemicals.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Only approved chemicals are allowed onsite.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Chemicals are used according to manufacturer specifications.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
A Certified Pool Operator (CPO) is on staff.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
JOB-SPECIFIC EXPOSURES			
Driver Safety			
The organization maintains a formal list of qualified drivers.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Vehicles are inspected and part of a preventive maintenance program.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Adequate equipment is provided to staff who make deliveries, such as lift gates, ramps, etc.	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
JOB-SPECIFIC EXPOSURES			
Bloodborne Pathogens			
<ul> <li>The following are available and readily accessible in the event of an emergency (check all that apply):</li> <li>Sharps containers</li> <li>First-aid kit</li> <li>PPE (e.g., latex gloves, goggles, pocket masks, etc.)</li> <li>Fire extinguishers</li> <li>Eyewash stations</li> <li>AED</li> <li>Other (specify):</li> </ul>	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A
Other:	□ Yes	□ No	□ N/A