

The Role of Supervisors when it comes to Injury Prevention

Did you know...?

- Musculoskeletal injuries (MSI) are currently the most frequently recorded injury type for workers in Manitoba, and account for more than 50% of time-loss injuries in Manitoba. Investigations show that injuries happen more often in workplaces that do not have effective safety and health programs.
- In 2021, Manitoba's trucking industry had 224 claims for MSI. 107 of those claims were to the lower back.
 - From January to the end of August 2022, the industry has 108 claims for MSI; 42 of those are to the lower back.

There are many steps a company can take to reduce injuries in the workplace. One of those steps is ensuring that those in supervisory roles understand their roles and responsibilities when it comes to occupational health and safety (OHS). Supervisors play a pivotal role in the OHS program. Workers look to their supervisors for guidance and support daily. Employers rely on them to represent them and help motivate their workers.

Who is a supervisor?

The definition of "supervisor" is a person who supervises activities or people, especially workers and students. There are many other terms that are used to describe a supervisor:

- Lead hand
- Manager
- Shift Leader
- Team Lead



This is important in the trucking industry: think about who directs work in your organization. Do dispatchers direct work? They do. They plan and organize work, they are representatives of the employer and hold many of the same responsibilities. They may not have the title of supervisor but that doesn't mean they aren't responsible for the health and safety of other workers.

Roles and Responsibilities

Supervisors are expected to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of workers under their supervision. This includes:

- making sure workers are following procedures,
- using devices, and wearing PPE designated for the task,
- advising workers of health and safety risks in their area of work,
- identifying hazards and implement corrective actions, and
- training (or ensuring) employees are trained with both health and safety information and task related training.

Safety Culture

Supervisors play an important role in the organization's safety culture. Workers look to supervisors to lead by example. Supervisors have influence over workers, and this influences the overall safety and health culture. A big part of the role of supervisor is to help make sure workers are following the organizations health and safety program.

Do you need more? RPM can help!

SAFE Work Manitoba has created [this page](#) with loads of valuable information for supervisors, outlining their roles and responsibilities related to workplace safety and health.

If you'd like to learn more about incident reporting requirements and the importance of studying near misses consider taking RPM's [Incident Reporting and Investigations course](#).

Please note RPM courses are offered to RPM registered companies only. Your company must be registered with RPM and be in the process of working towards certification or must have achieved the SAFE Work Manitoba Trucking Certificate of Recognition. Not yet registered in the RPM program? Today is a great day to get started!

Please contact RPM by emailing info@rpmsafety.ca or calling 204-632-6600, or by visiting our website www.rpmsafety.ca



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