

# FRIDAY SAFETY BRIEF

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Basic  
Elements  
of a  
Safety  
Program



Training

Supervision

Compliance

Accident  
Investigation

Selection of  
Drivers &  
Employees

If a safety program is to be effective, top management must drive these elements. This should be in the form of a written company safety policy. Safety should be a part of every employee's job and, for that reason, it may become a line function.

Engineering: simply means to "engineer the problems (accident causes) out" first, if possible

Education: Educate everyone in the correct procedures and the policies.

Enforcement: Enforce the Rules

Investigate each accident thoroughly to determine what caused the occurrence. If preventable, the accident cause(s) probably lies within one of three areas above.

## Turning **Safety Compliance** Into **Profits**

**The** purpose of both state and federal safety regulations is to reduce accidents (property damage and injuries). But regulations consist of minimum standards, and while compliance with those minimum is essential, it might not be enough to truly reduce a company's losses. Reducing losses translates to the "bottom line", increased profits, no matter how you look at it. Take an overall look at the operational aspects of your safety program; initially to make sure all of the necessary components are in place. Some of those components might be:

- ↳ Assignment of Safety Responsibilities – whether full time or part of someone's responsibilities
- ↳ Driver selection and qualification process-acceptable driver records, qualification
- ↳ Orientation, in-service and special training
- ↳ Accident reporting, recording, analysis
- ↳ Equipment maintenance, PM's roadside inspection follow-up
- ↳ Drug/alcohol testing program
- ↳ Hours of Service, scheduling, auditing, fatigue issues
- ↳ Hazardous Materials; procedures, training, emergency response, security

These are just a few of the basics and your operation may require processes beyond these, or several other "sub-components". An overview of your operation will allow you to assess the various needs for safety components. Each of these components will also need a careful, more in-depth review, to ensure that the procedures actually work efficiently within the operational structure of your company. Then compare loss data, on a regular basis, to make sure the program is actually effective – that is, reducing losses.

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