

Accidents & Safety

Many accidents occur in industries and other organizations, which result in a great loss of life, property, production and materials. It has been seen that these accidents occur due to unsafe working conditions, employees' faults. It is, therefore, very essential to avoid accidents by providing safety measures and better conditions for the employees.

Accident: An event or mishappening that occurs unexpectedly is known as an accident.

An accident has following characteristics:

1. An

accident is unexpected.

2. It

results to some loss i.e. damage to property or equipment and injury or death.

The third and the most important characteristic of an accident is that it arises out of work situation. Work situation leading to an accident may arise from physical, physiological causes. It may be due to defective tools or equipments or due to any defect in the body of worker like poor eyesight or due to psychological reasons like fear and worry.

CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENTS:

a. According

to length of recovery.

b. According

to Causes of Events.

c. According

to Nature of Events.

d. According

to Damage caused.

e. According

to Nature of Injury.

f. According

to Accidents caused on Construction work.

a. Classification

According to The Length of Recovery:

According to Length of Recovery there are three types.

i. Lost

Time Accident: In this, the worker loses some more time than the shift or the day on which the accident occurred.

The worker is advised rest for some period. During the period of rest he cannot attend his formal duty compensation as per workmen compensation act. If a worker cuts his finger and is allowed rest for three days, it is called a lost time accident.

ii. Home

cases: In this type of accident the worker loses remaining shift or the day on which the accident occurred. The worker is treated at the factory hospital and is allowed to go home. In this type of accident no compensation is paid. Such accidents are not very serious.

iii. First

Aid Cases: These types of accidents are minor. They are not at all serious. The minor injury is treated at the factory hospital and no rest is required. The worker may start his work again after the first aid. No compensation is payable.

b. Classification

According to Causes of Events:

According to causes of events the classification is as follows:

i. Machine

Accidents: Machine accidents are more serious than non-machine accidents. In machine accidents the number of accidents is more.

a. Catching

of a part of body or cloth in the machine.

b. Catching

of tools in the machine.

c. Catching

of flying objects or particles.

ii. Non-machine

accidents: Non-machine accidents are more common than machine accidents. They are less serious and less damaging. They are

a. Falling

objects.

b. Objects

on the floor.

c. Pushes

by the other person or object.

d. Projected
objects.

e. Over-head
loads or objects.

c. Classification According to Nature of Events:

1. Traffic
Accidents:

i. Another
vehicle.

ii. Pedestrians
or road-walkers.

iii. Fixed
objects like trees, poles and buildings.

2. Passenger
Accidents:

i. Boarding
a moving vehicle.

ii. Caught
or struck by door.

iii. Alighting
from a vehicle.

iv. Slipping
or thumbling.

v. Falling
because of sudden jolt.

d. Classification According to Damage Caused:

1.
Damage to the store:

i. Damage
to the store material.

ii. Complete
loss of container or contents.

iii. Partial
loss to container or contents.

2. Damage to Equipments:

i. Damage
to hand trucks.

ii. Damage
to trolleys.

iii. Damage
to belt conveyors.

iv. Damage
to cranes.

v. Damage
to machines.

e. Classification According to Nature of Injury:

1.

Fatal Accidents: The accident in which a worker or more are killed.

2. Permanent

disablement: The accident in which a worker loses the whole of his earning capacity or a part of it. The worker is not capable of earning that much money, which he was capable before accident. The worker gets compensation for it. The permanent disablement may be Partial or Complete disablement.

3. Temporary

disablement: These accidents are less serious. The worker loses his earning capacity for a short time. Compensation is paid for such accident according to Workmen compensation act. Fracture is an example of temporary disablement.

f. Classification According to Accidents on Construction Work:

1. Fall

of a person at the same level.

2. Fall

of a person from one level to another level.

3. Slips

resulting strains not fall.

4. Accidents

because of flying or falling objects.

5. A

person being caught between objects.

6. Striking

against something.

7. Accident

caused due to traffic.

8. Drowning

Accidents.

9. Burning

Accidents.

10. Electric

shocks.

11. Poison

or Infection.

12. Buried

or partially buried by collapse of sides or fall of material.

13. Explosion.

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

Accidents

are unexpected, but they do not just happen. They are caused. If we want to control the accidents we know their causes. Some important causes of accidents are:

1. Physical

causes.

2. Physiological

causes.

3. Psychological causes.

1. Physical Causes:

a.

Related to tools.

i. Unsuitable tools.

ii. Dull or damaged tools.

iii. Tools without handles.

iv. Defective tools.

v. Very sharp tools.

vi. Small tools used for heavy jobs.

b. Related to machines.

i. Unguarded machines.

ii. Improperly adjusted.

iii. Too crowded machines.

iv. Unsuitable for jobs.

v. Unsuitable

cutter.

vi. Improper
insulation of electric motor.

vii. Not
properly lubricated.

c. Related
to material.

i. Inflammable
material.

ii. Hot
material.

iii. Poisonous
material.

iv. Toxic
material.

v. Breakable
material.

d. Related
to working condition.

i. Slippery
floors.

ii. Unprotected
conductors.

iii. Projected
objects.

iv. Defective
ladders.

v. Bad

discipline.

vi. Very poor lighting and ventilation.

vii. Defective building.

viii. Outside disturbances.

e. Related to dress.

i. Loose or improper dress.

ii. Very tight dress.

iii. Slippery footwear.

iv. Unbuttoned sleeves.

v. Not wearing protective dresses.

2. Physiological

Causes: Those causes, which are related to human body, are known as physiological causes. Some are caused because of certain defects in human body. If an accident is caused because of poor eyesight it is called physiological cause of accident. Some examples are as follows.

a. Poor eyesight.

b. Poor listening power.

c. Colour blindness.

d. Any

part of the body like hand or arm may be defective.

e. Weak health.

f. Fatness.

g. Dwarfness or tallness.

h. High blood pressure.

i. Fatigue.

j. Old age.

3. Psychological causes of accidents: Those accidents that are caused due to mental disturbances while working are known as psychological causes. Sometimes, the worker loses control over their minds due to mental disturbance. Because of mental disturbance like worry or fear workers may not have concentration in mind. Such workers are easy victims of accidents.

Some important psychological causes are:

1. Worry or depression.

2. Fear.

3. Mental tension.

4. Emotional instability.

5. Nervousness.

6. Impulsiveness.

Other personal causes.

1. Carelessness.

2. Intoxication.

3. Sense
of irresponsibility.

4. Over-confidence.

5. Clumsiness.

6. Lack
of training and experience.

An

accident may be caused due to any of these causes or due to combination of two or more factors. It is
that 18% accidents are caused due to mechanical causes, 19% due to personal causes and 63% due
combination of above two factors.