

# SAFETYLINE

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## Accidents Cost Everyone *It's Not Only Money...*

When anyone you work with gets into an accident, it costs everyone. It's almost as if you could take an extra deduction from your paycheck. The costs are always greater than money alone.

### **Lower Productivity=Layoffs**

The more accidents there are, the less productive the company can be as a whole. The less productive it is, the less able it is to compete. Other more efficient safety-minded companies begin to take business away. If they take some business, it can mean you don't get the raise or bonus you'd hoped for. If they take away enough business, your company may have to lay people off. Accidents do cost.

### **Accidents=Medical Expenses**

It's obvious that accidents cost money. Each time you go to the doctor, someone has to pay the bill. It may seem to you that it doesn't matter, since your company carries Workers Compensation insurance anyway. But, it does matter. Even insured accidents can end up costing you money. Your company's insurance premium depends on how often workers make claims. The more accidents, the higher the cost of insurance. Those increased costs have to come from somewhere. The higher your company's expenses, the less that's available for important things—like your paycheck.

### **Not Just Money**

Accidents cost money, but other costs are high, too. A good example of what happens after a serious fire. Most or all of the workforce may avoid serious injury. But, 40% of factories with serious fires never open again. That means lost jobs. Many people who lose their jobs lose their homes as well. For them, being out of work can make it impossible to pay their mortgages.

In situations like these, stress and tension are high. A lot of marriages break up when one of the spouses loses a job. People often turn to alcohol to try and escape. Everyone in the family suffers. So you see, the cost of an accident such as a fire can be pretty serious—and not just in terms of money.

### **Hopes and Dreams**

One tragic cost of accidents is the cost of losing your hopes and dreams. Losing a hand or a life may set a family back for years as savings go up in smoke. Instead of college the kids may have to get jobs to help out. Instead of the home you've dreamed of owning, it's more years in a crowded apartment. Even if an accident isn't so serious, it can still hurt your hopes. You may not be promoted when you had hoped to be—accidents are bad for business. So what looked like a good shot at a good future may be hurt by a careless accident.

### **Carelessness=Pain**

Careless attitudes can lead to two kinds of pain, and it's difficult to say which one is worse. Physical pain after losing a hand, an eye, or good health can be terrible. Emotional pain following death of a spouse or parent, or the amputation of a limb can be horrifying in a different way.

### **Why Pay The Cost?**

Luckily many accidents can be avoided by just taking extra time and care, by wearing and using the right equipment, and by following safe practices. There's not reason to pay the high cost of accident

*(Source: Parley International)*