



The State of Safety in High Hazard Work Environments

New Survey Data Indicates that More Than Half of
Employees Feel Under-Equipped to Work Safely

Safety. Savings. Simple.

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Today's Safety Programs Maintain - But Don't Reduce -Fatal and Life-Altering Injury Rates

As much of the workforce shifts toward remote or hybrid working environments to safeguard workers from emerging hazards, core industries like construction, manufacturing, and agriculture rely on safe, structured field or factory environments to thrive.

The COVID-19 pandemic surfaced the need for rapid digital transformation in industries that are historically reliant on paper-based plans. Officials from OSHA [have proposed](#) that core industries will benefit from the smarter, faster insights available through digital safety management tools. However, no regulatory agency requires adoption of a specific type of safety management system.

To prevent lost time and catastrophic injuries, companies need an established safety program that not only adheres to OSHA guidelines but, in many industries, surpasses them. To implement their programs, employers leverage a combination of digital and paper-based systems.

While tools and technologies for worker productivity have advanced across many labor-intensive industries, the wider approach to worker safety hasn't.



While recordable workplace incidents have been on a steady decline, workplace fatalities and life-altering incidents have held relatively steady, with 4,764 fatal incidents recorded in 2020 and 4,690 recorded in 2010 ([BLS](#)).

So how should companies adjust their safety programs?

For this study, we asked 601 workers across the construction, industrial, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors to share their level of knowledge regarding their personal safety at work and their company's safety practices in order to evaluate how digitization impacts safety programs in safety-critical workplaces.

The State of Workplace Safety

Effective safety management is central to doing business fairly, lawfully, and competitively. What does it look like across today's businesses?



Evidence for Digitization

Businesses still favor paper forms overall but prefer mobile forms for running routine inspections.



Use Paper
to document safety activities, such as reporting hazards



Use Dedicated EHS
to document safety activities, such as reporting hazards



Use Digital
to run routine field safety inspections



Use Both
paper or digital

And businesses using digital safety tools are more likely to effectively carry out their company's guidelines



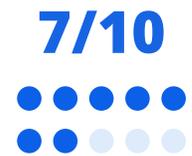
of respondents agreed that using mobile/tablet devices improves worker safety



agreed that using mobile/tablet devices decreases risky behavior



agreed that using mobile/tablet devices improves documentation



respondents said that the digitization of their company's safety program would improve their personal compliance

Businesses that rely on paper-only safety documentation run a grave risk of failing to identify and respond to hazards early. Even where paper or Excel-based programs are implemented, extracting actionable data remains a concern.

Evidence for Digitization

Digitization doesn't just improve ease of use - the data shows it also decreases workplace incidents



74% of respondents said that there are fewer safety-related incidents since their company's safety program went digital than there were before

Employees recognize a need for modernization



Using paper based systems said that the digitization of their company's safety program would improve their team's compliance

The Importance of Digitization in Perspective

Digitization is important but remember — even with the most innovative tools available, a true safety culture requires top-down incentive structures and behavior shifts, so that the welfare of your employees is front-of-mind, regardless of macroeconomic conditions.



Peter Grant,
CEO of [Safesite](#)

Emergency Action Plans Are Widely Inaccessible

While the majority of companies have an emergency action plan (EAP)



of respondents said that their company has an EAP



of respondents said their EAP is paper-based

Many of these EAPs are less than satisfactory



of surveyed workers said that their emergency action plan is outdated



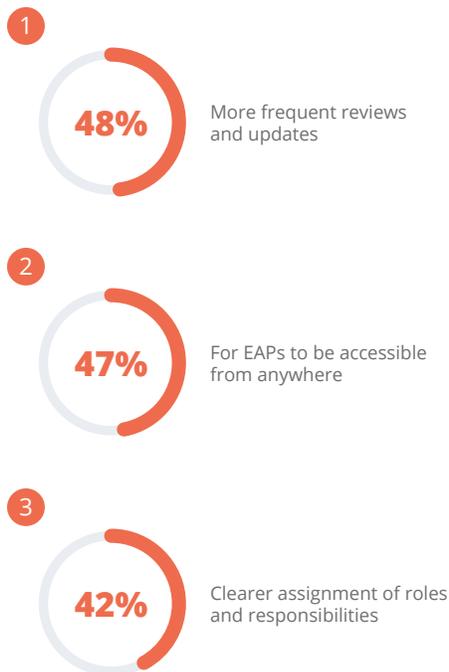
said that the plan would be cumbersome to access in the event of an actual emergency

If plans are inaccessible/difficult to access for half of workers, then effectively half of the workforce is not prepared for an emergency.

Emergency Action Plans Are Widely Inaccessible

So how should companies adjust their safety programs?

When it comes to EAPs, workers have some common complaints. The top three changes workers want to see are:



The Risk of Resistance to Change

Business leaders and their brokers know that making the move to smartphones and tablets isn't a quick fix for risk management issues, so they often don't take the leap. However, digitization is not only more effective long-term but it also opens up opportunities to improve every other business process touched by workplace safety.



David Fontain,
CEO of Foresight

Conclusion

**Effective Risk Management
Tech Table Stakes for Success**

In 2020, there was one worker death every 111 minutes.

How many of the 4,764 lives could have been saved with greater visibility into the risks and the steps being taken to address them?

It's imperative that companies urgently prioritize digitization as a means of prevention in order to reduce or avoid catastrophic and/or fatal incidents.

"Many business leaders find it tough to change an established corporate culture once habits are formed," says Emilio Figueroa, Chief Insurance Officer, Foresight. "But this mindset limits understanding and accessibility."

In a time where work is increasingly dangerous and fewer workers are entering manual labor-based jobs, digital safety management is no longer a nice-to-have but table stakes for success. But this burden doesn't have to fall on the shoulders of business leadership alone.

"Business leaders and their brokers know that making the move to smartphones and tablets isn't a quick fix for risk management issues, so they often don't take the leap," says David Fontain. "However, digitization is not only more effective long-term but it also opens up opportunities to improve every other business process touched by workforce safety. By tying safe work practices to faster premium reduction, Foresight economizes risk management and breaks barriers to business growth."

Through digitization, companies can facilitate behavior change through ongoing engagement, ultimately creating safer work environments and more successful businesses.



Emilio Figueroa,
Chief Insurance Officer of [Foresight](#)

Digitization isn't about keeping up with the latest trends, it's about proactively protecting your best and greatest resource — your employees.



Laura Gomez Thomas,
VP of Claims, [Foresight](#)

Conclusion

**Effective Risk Management
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Facilitating Risk Tech Adoption Across the Insurance Value Chain

Workers compensation providers have a vested interest in worker safety. While many carriers supply risk management materials and provide loss control services, few have an adequate understanding of how safety tech implementation (or lack thereof) impacts their policyholders. Insurance innovation will be a tipping point in higher safety technology adoption rates.

“All of our policyholders implement an easy-to-use risk management platform, Safesite, at a pace that makes sense for their business,” says David Fontain, CEO of Foresight, a workers compensation insurtech

startup. “They typically see improvements within six months, though many businesses report immediate improvements in field accountability, hazard identification, and communication. In just one year, our policyholders have reduced incident frequency by 31% on average.”

There are myriad safety technologies available to business leaders today, from risk management platforms to wearable devices to smart tools and PPE. Companies must determine which tools are most effective for reducing the risks their workers face on the job. Then, they must ensure those technologies are rolled out to the workforce effectively.

“We’ve been able to speed adoption by connecting clients with dedicated professionals that guide them through the rollout of their first digital safety program.”



Peter Grant,
CEO of [Safesite](#)

Survey Methodology

Foresight Group partnered with a third-party research provider to survey 601 workers across the construction, industrial, manufacturing, and agribusiness sectors. Respondents were concentrated in companies from 100-2500 employees with \$500K-\$15M in annual revenue.

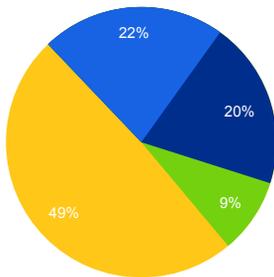
Employees shared their level of knowledge regarding their personal safety at work and their company’s safety practices.

The survey was conducted at 95% confidence with a +/- 4% margin of error and saw representation from all 50 states.

Conclusion

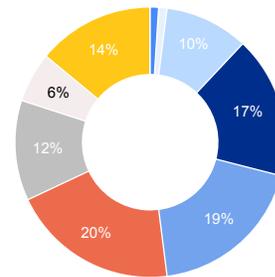
**Effective Risk Management
Tech Table Stakes for Success**

Industry



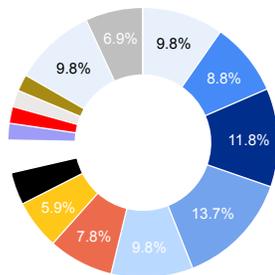
- \$100,000 - \$499,999: (9%)
- \$5M - \$10M: (10%)
- \$100,000 - \$499,999: (9%)
- \$5M - \$10M: (10%)

Company Size



- 1-9: (1%)
- 100-249: (17%)
- 1000-2499: (12%)
- 1-19: (1%)
- 250-499: (19%)
- 2500-4999: (6%)
- 20-99: (10%)
- 500-999: (20%)
- 5000+: (14%)

Annual Revenue



- \$100,000 - \$499,999: (9%)
- \$5M - \$10M: (10%)
- \$20M - \$25M: (4%)
- \$35M - \$40M: (2%)
- \$60M+: (10%)
- \$100,000 - \$499,999: (9%)
- \$5M - \$10M: (10%)
- \$20M - \$25M: (4%)
- \$35M - \$40M: (2%)
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