

What Does An Accident Cost?

Every accident has something in common: It costs everyone involved something. There are direct and indirect costs, both to the employee who was injured and the employer who eventually will pay for the accident. The costs are more than dollars.

Guide for Discussion

Employee Direct Costs

- Lost regular wages and overtime

Employee Indirect Costs

- Mental anguish, physical pain and suffering
- Decreased active participation with their family and friends (It's tough to be at a ball game when laying up in a hospital bed)
- Inability to be productive on or off the job

Employer Direct Costs

- Workers' Compensation claim
- Medical bills
- Associated legal and possible increased insurance costs
- Uninsured property damage costs

Employer Indirect Costs

- Loss of valuable employee with a result of lost efficiency on the job
- Managerial and clerical time expended to handle injury claims
- Time loss wages paid with no work performed
- Hiring and training replacement
- Damaged or destroyed equipment, materials or tools

Additional Discussion Notes:

Remember: The indirect (or hidden) cost in an accident is between three and ten times the actual cost of the claim. But it is not the costs, direct or indirect, that totals the most. More often than not it is the loss of a valuable co-worker or member of a family that causes the most problems for our company.

Attendees:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.