

Whose Responsibility Is It?

After an accident has occurred, it is not unusual for those who were around the injured worker to feel guilty. This guilt is part of each person's inner awareness that there was possibly something they could or should have done to prevent the accident. Sometimes the accident is the result of someone else's mistakes. But who causes the accident is not as important as who is responsible for the accident, and what steps will be taken to correct future similar accidents from happening. The following is a partial list of responsibilities for safety on the job.

Guide for Discussion

Who's Responsible? (Discussion Points)

- Senior company management?
- Crew supervisor?
- Each person on the job?
- Trained safety professionals?
- Company safety committee?

Some Responsibility Rules for Everyone

- If it's unsafe for you then it's unsafe for the next person and the hazard should be corrected.
- Safety doesn't belong to any one construction craft; rather it is part of every construction craft to be responsible.
- If safety doesn't begin with you, it won't begin at all.

An Individual's Responsibility

- To yourself
- To your family
- To your co-workers
- To your company

Additional Discussion Notes: (See Pages 2 & 3)

Remember: Workers' compensation checks won't pay all the bills nor will they replace the self-esteem one has from being a good provider to their families. Without complete cooperation from everyone on the worksite, it just will not be as safe as it should be.

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.

Whose Responsibility Is It? Exam

In our company, who is primarily responsible for the following safety activities?

E = Employee

SC = Safety Committee

S = Supervisor

EMP = Employer

- _____ Complying with Safety Rules
- _____ Conducting Safety Training
- _____ Recognizing Others for Safety Performances (Good or Bad)
- _____ Reporting Injuries or Illnesses
- _____ Providing Feedback About Safe Work Procedures
- _____ Enforcing Safety Rules
- _____ Conducting Area Safety Inspections
- _____ Selecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- _____ Assessing Workplace Hazards
- _____ Reporting Hazards
- _____ Conducting Accident Investigations
- _____ Rewarding Incentives
- _____ Recommending Corrective Actions to Eliminate Hazards
- _____ Demonstrating Safe Work Practices
- _____ Training Safe Work Procedures to New Employees
- _____ Ensuring Safe and Healthful Work Areas
- _____ Monitoring Safety and Health Programs
- _____ Showing Others How to Use Personal Protective Equipment
- _____ Reporting Incidents or Near Misses
- _____ Eliminating or Reducing Hazards
- _____ Developing Safe Work Procedures
- _____ Conducting Job Hazard Analyses

Whose Responsibility Is It? Exam Answer Key

Instructor Note: This written test can be given to employees, supervisors, the employer and the company safety committee to reinforce training in “Whose Responsibility Is It.”

Because each company is different, there are no single correct answers. However, one perspective of primary responsibility recommends one of the following answers:

E, SC, S, EMP	Complying with Safety Rules
SC, S, EMP	Conducting Safety Training
SC, S, EMP	Recognizing Others for Safety Performances (Good or Bad)
E, S	Reporting Injuries or Illnesses
E, SC	Providing Feedback About Safe Work Procedures
SC, S, EMP	Enforcing Safety Rules
SC, S, EMP	Conducting Area Safety Inspections
SC, EMP	Selecting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
SC, EMP	Assessing Workplace Hazards
SC	Reporting Hazards
SC, S, EMP	Conducting Accident Investigations
SC, EMP	Reward Incentives
E, SC, S	Recommending Corrective Actions to Eliminate Hazards
SC, S, EMP	Demonstrating Safe Work Practices
SC, S, EMP	Training Safe Work Procedures to New Employees
SC, S, EMP	Ensuring Safe and Healthful Work Areas
SC, S, EMP	Monitoring Safety and Health Programs
SC, S, EMP	Showing Others How to Use Personal Protective Equipment
E, S	Reporting Incidents or Near Misses
E, SC, S, EMP	Eliminating or Reducing Hazards
SC, S, EMP	Developing Safe Work Procedures
S, EMP	Conducting Job Hazard Analyses

Why such emphasis on Supervisors?

It makes good sense to hold supervisors responsible for the employees placed under their charge. It builds a sense of teamwork and shared responsibility for safe productivity. Supervisors are generally closer to the employees under their charge and better able to positively influence positive behavioral change.