Using Incident Investigations as a Program Assessment Tool

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ABSTRACT

Companies have an opportunity to assess their safety and health programs by conducting thorough root cause incident investigations. By evaluating incidents beyond the initiating cause of an event, companies which utilize root cause incident investigations determine underlying causes of incidents. Root cause information can be used as a program assessment tool to determine the effectiveness of management systems which may have been involved in an event. With information related to the effectiveness of companies management systems, these companies have opportunities to make changes to prevent the recurrence or mitigate the consequences of future events which may occur as a result of deficiencies in management systems.