A Practitioner’s Approach to Utilizing Leading Indicators to Drive Safety Performance

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ABSTRACT

ExxonMobil Development has worked closely with multiple contractors and business partners around the world to implement the use of leading safety indicators, and the use of leading safety indicators has been a key element in ExxonMobil Development's world class success in safety.

Leading safety indicators are all about focusing resources on improving and/or increasing those safe behaviors that a site team or organization should be doing to prevent accidents. Safety metrics fall into two basic areas; trailing indicators which are measurements linked to the outcome of an accident, and leading indicators which are measurements linked to behaviors associated with preventing accidents. While trailing indicators are the final measure of the success of the safety process, leading indicators, however, measure the effectiveness of implementation and prompt line management to take action before accidents happen. The use of leading indicators has shown to provide the management team additional opportunities to manage safety performance, and has been an effective means at increasing management participation and worker involvement, and improving important safety processes.

The objectives of the presentation are:
- Provide an introduction on the fundamentals of leading safety indicators,
- Introduce examples of analytical tools that support the use of leading safety indicators,
- Share a case study that demonstrates the potential of driving performance through the use of leading safety indicators, and
- Communicate lessons learned in the application of leading safety indicators.