



Orientation

Background for CAC/CAP
Annual Reports
on Worker Safety

Numbers tell the story of **people**
injured and not injured in the workplace

3-29-24

Safety report is about **people**

- Tracking OSHA recordable rates each year is a way for community advisory councils/panels to **promote continuous improvement** in worker safety.
- Lets plants **evaluate** their safety performance against that of their neighboring plants. No other place to do so, as far as we know.
- Plants encouraged to **share** safety reports with employees and contractors.
- **Improvement** comes from this effort.

Which workers are covered in these safety reports?

- All plant **employees**
- Plant **contractors**. CAC asks that plants include resident or nested contractors that work in the plant daily as well as plant turnaround and expansion contractors.

Examples of what contractors do

Contractors in the plant: scaffold builders, welders, painters, maintenance workers during a turnaround, general plant maintenance workers, fugitive emission monitoring technicians, and loaders

Contractors in administrative buildings: engineering consultants, administrative assistants, purchasing, human resources, lab technicians, security, and accountants

Employees typically do the higher hazard, chemical-related jobs; e.g. preparing equipment for maintenance by clearing chemicals from lines and locking out energy sources before maintenance contractors begin repairing equipment

What is OSHA?

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 - A **federal agency since 1970**. Part of US Department of Labor in the Department of Commerce
- **Regulates workplace safety** for all private industry
- **Private industry** means businesses that produce goods or provide services
- OSHA reports also include some data from state-local governments

What is an “OSHA Recordable” ?

- **Recordable** – work-related injury or illness that must be **recorded** on an OSHA log
 - Log must be available if OSHA inspects
- Some recordables also must be **reported**
 - Fatality
 - Inpatient hospitalization
 - Amputation
 - Loss of an eye

What counts as an OSHA Recordable?

- In simplest terms, workplace injuries or illnesses that require a **doctor's intervention**.
 - More than simple first aid
- **Wide range** of injuries and illnesses

Simplest doctor intervention is prescribing a medicine also available over the counter.

But includes everything from that to sutures to surgery to fatalities.

- Covers **workplace injuries and illnesses**

How does OSHA address severity?

- **Fatality**
- **Lost-time injury** (unable to come to work)
 - Examples: fractures, surgery, ruptured Achilles tendon
- **Restricted duty** (at work but unable to do usual job)
 - Examples: sprained ankle, back strain
- **“Less serious” recordable**
 - Examples: stitches, prescription medicine for bee sting

What is an OSHA recordable rate?

- A **standardized formula** so any company, big or small and in any kind of business, can calculate its rate of recordables and compare themselves to other businesses.
 - Example: Plants can compare the rates of contractor firms they might hire to see how they compare to the plant's own performance.
- Formula is **based on 200,000 work hours**, the number 100 workers would typically work in a year. (50 weeks X 40 hrs/week)

To calculate an OSHA recordable rate, what do you need to know?

- **Number of OSHA recordable injuries or illnesses in last 12 months**
 - Plants track them all the time, not just at year's end.
- **Total work hours**
 - Some work full time, some don't. So rate is based on work hours rather than number of employees.
 - May estimate number of employees by dividing work hours by 2,080 (number of hours typically worked in a year).

How do you calculate a recordable rate?

- **Multiply 200,000 by number of recordables. Then divide by number of work hours.**
- One injury during 200,000 hours of work in a year is a recordable rate of **1.00**, meaning one person out of 100 was injured that year.
- Higher than 1.00 is equal to more than 1 person out of 100 injured in a year. Less than 1.00 means fewer than 1 person per 100 had an OSHA recordable injury or illness in a year.

How do work hours affect the rate?

Rate for one recordable in plants of different sizes

- 1 x 200,000 divided by **1,000,000** work hours
= a rate of **0.20**
- 1 x 200,000 divided by **100,000** work hours
= a rate of **2.00**
- 1 x 200,000 divided by **10,000** work hours
= a rate of **20.00**