
Accident Investigation *for* OSHA compliance

Part One: Getting Started

Presented by: ETTA, OSH Division, (919) 707-7876

Important Stuff

- Emergency Exits
- Agenda
- Breaks and Lunch
- Restroom Location
- Electronic Devices

Course Overview

- Part One: Getting Started
- Part Two: The 6 Steps of Accident Investigation
- Part Three: Documentation

Course Objectives

- At the end of this course, participants will be able to:
 - Prepare for an accident investigation.
 - Assess an accident scene.
 - Apply investigative interview techniques.
 - Collect physical evidence.
 - Analyze the accident investigation findings.
 - Apply OSHA requirements to conclude the investigation.
 - Document the investigation.

Compliance Inspection

- Basic questions addressed in a compliance inspection:
 - What happened?
 - Where did it happen?
 - When did it happen?
 - Who was involved?
 - What OSHA standards were violated?
 - How can it be abated?

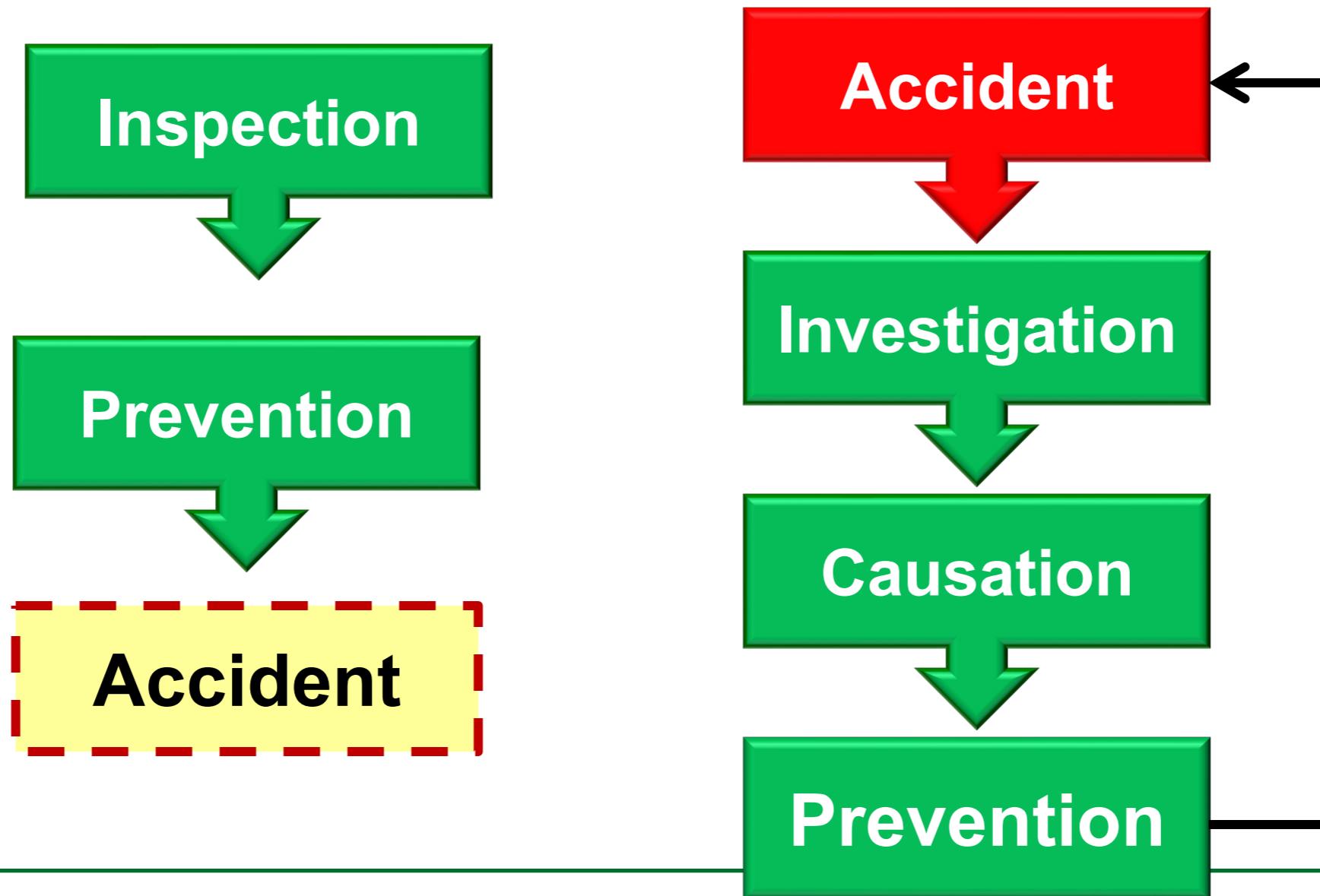
Accident Investigation

- Basic questions addressed in an accident investigation:
 - What happened?
 - Where did it happen?
 - When did it happen?
 - Who was involved?
 - **Why did it happen?**
 - **What caused the accident?**
 - **Were any OSHA standards violated?**

Why Investigate Accidents?



Inspection vs Investigation



Field Ops Manual VIII

- Fatality and Catastrophe Investigations
 - FOM Ch. VIII, A – General
 - FOM Ch VIII, B – Investigation Procedures

Purpose of Accident Investigation

FOM Ch. VIII, A 4

- Determine the cause of the accident.
- Identify related OSH violations.
- Examine the impact of the violation(s).
- Explore the need to revise OSH standards.

- Policy:
 - Job-related **fatalities**, **catastrophes**, and **significant events**, will be investigated as a high priority.
 - Citations or an incompliance letter issued **within 90 calendar days** from the opening conference.



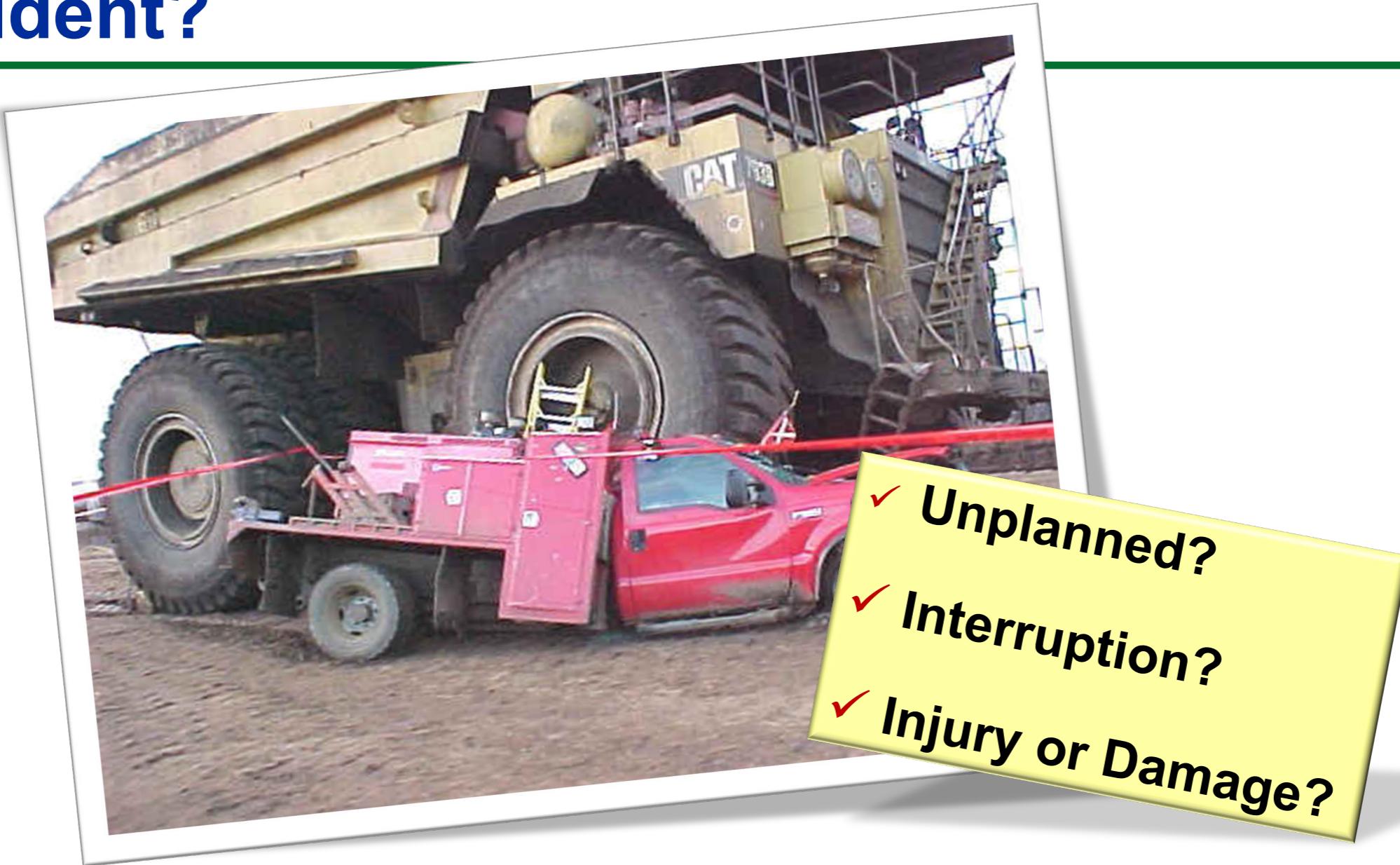
Definitions

- Accident
- Fatality
- Catastrophe
- Hospitalization
- Significant Event
- Natural/Man-Made Disaster
- Non Work-Related Fatality

Definitions

- Accident
 - Unplanned event
 - Interrupts the completion of an activity, and
 - May include injury or property damage.

Accident?



Definitions

FOM Ch. VIII, A 2

- **Fatality**
 - An employee death
 - resulting from an employment accident or illness;
 - caused by or related to a workplace hazard.



Definitions

FOM Ch. VIII, A 2

- Catastrophe
 - The hospitalization of 3+ employees
 - resulting from an employment accident or illness;
 - in general, from an accident or illness caused by a workplace hazard.



Definitions

FOM Ch. VIII, A 2



- Hospitalization

To be **admitted as an inpatient** to a hospital or equivalent medical facility for examination or treatment.

- Significant Event
 - Occupationally related
 - Involving multiple fatalities, extensive injuries, massive toxic exposures, extensive property damage, or
 - One which presents potential workers injury, and generates widespread media interest.

Significant Event – ConAgra Explosion



- ✓ Occupational?
- ✓ Fatalities?
- ✓ Injuries?
- ✓ Property damage?
- ✓ Media interest?

- Natural/Man-Made Disaster
 - Disruption of **infrastructure**
 - Hurricanes,
 - Floods,
 - Tornadoes,
 - Criminal activities,
 - Terrorist activities,



- “Non-Work” Related Fatality
 - An employee death attributed to natural causes.
 - Occurs during on-the-job work hours.
 - Determined not to be a result of any workplace hazard(s).

But Wait! There's more --

FOM Ch. VIII, A 3

- The division does not limit its investigation of accidents to only those that result in a fatality or catastrophe!
 - Hospitalization
 - Amputation
 - Loss of an eye
 - Incidents involving **significant publicity** will also be investigated.



Who Responds?

- Investigation Team or CSHO?

Investigation Team

FOM Ch. VIII, B 1 d

- Larger Magnitude Incidents
 - An investigative team leader (ITL) will be designated by the supervisor to coordinate activities.
 - Usually a Supervisor or CSHO II.
 - Promptly to the scene and function as a unit.



Selection of CSHO

FOM Ch. VIII, B 1 f

- If a team not required, a CSHO will be selected by supervisor.

**CSHO will be the Accident
Investigator and assume
ITL responsibilities.**



Responsibilities

- The primary tasks of the accident investigator or investigation team is to determine if there was:
 - Hazard
 - Violation
 - Exposure
 - Knowledge



Your Action Plan

FOM Ch. III, B 2

- Pre-Inspection Planning
- Identify appropriate PPE
- Gather inspection equipment
- Opening Conference

Pre-Investigation Planning

- More information about the Company
- Current status
- Research hazards
- Equipment needs
- Select PPE
- Get directions



Begin to Hypothesize!

Roles of the ITL

FOM Ch. VIII, B 1 e

- Inform ICS that NCDOL is on-site.
- Identify hazards before entering site.
- Coordinate and direct team members
- Report to Director at least daily.
- Keep up with other folks' findings!
- Maintain chronology of events
- Keep notes (mtgs, phone calls,etc)
- Daily planning sessions with team and others
- Submit weekly report to DOL management

Steps in Investigation

- Coordinating with Other Agencies
- Assessing the Scene and Collecting Evidence
- Interviewing Witnesses
- Creating a Sequence of Events
- Determining the Cause
- Identifying OSHA Violations
- Documenting the Findings

Summary

Thank You For Attending!

Final Questions?