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# Accident Investigation *for* OSHA compliance

## Part One: Getting Started

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# Important Stuff

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

# Course Overview

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

# Course Objectives

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- 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

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- 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

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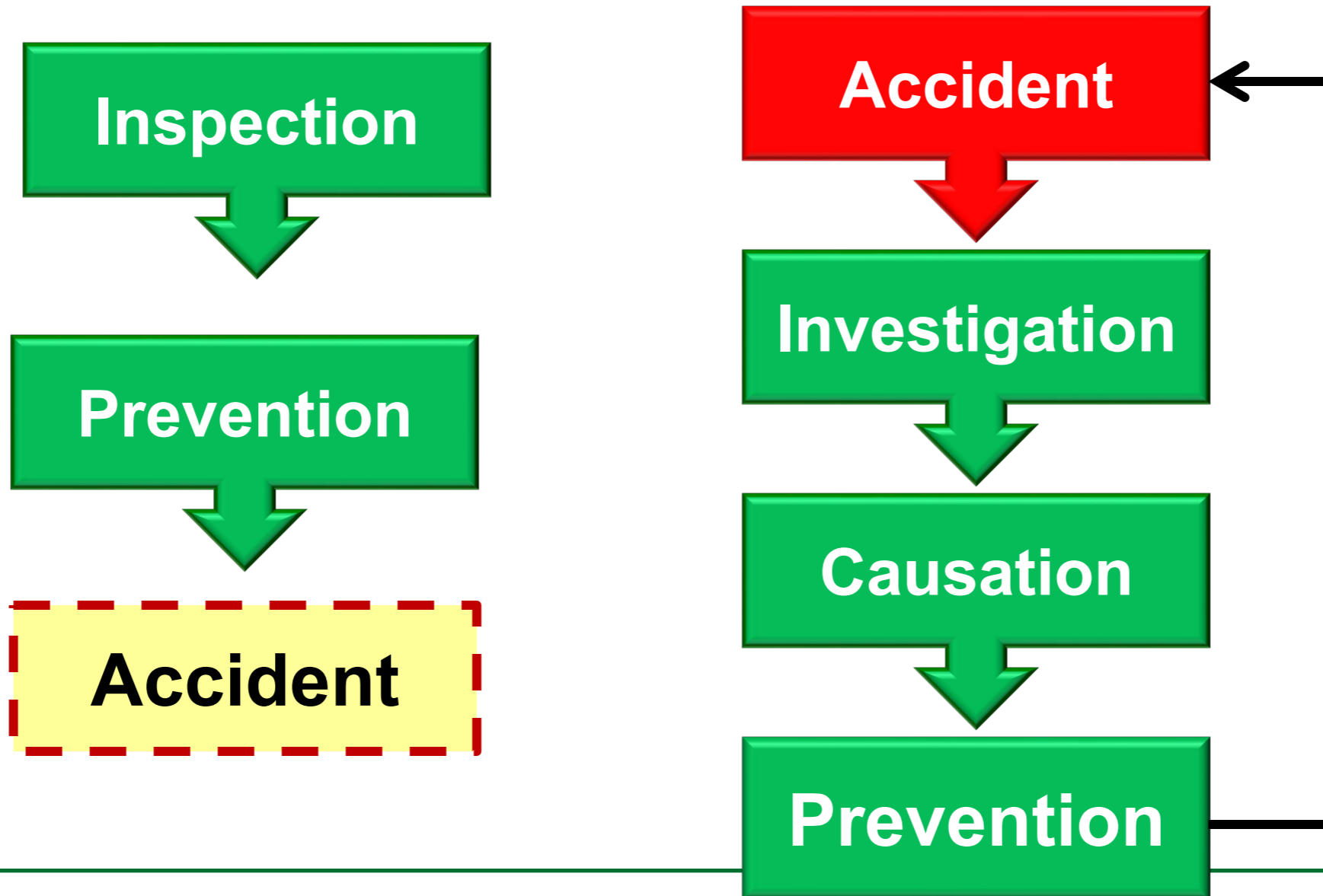
- Basic questions addressed in an accident investigation:
  - What happened?
  - Where did it happen?
  - When did it happen?
  - Who was involved?
  - **Why did it happen?**
  - **What caused the accident?**
  - **Were any OSHA standards violated?**

# Why Investigate Accidents?

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# Inspection vs Investigation



# Field Ops Manual VIII

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

# Purpose of Accident Investigation

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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.

# Field Ops Manual VIII

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FOM Ch. VIII, A 1

- 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

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

# Definitions

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

# Accident?



- ✓ Unplanned?
- ✓ Interruption?
- ✓ Injury or Damage?

# 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

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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?

# Definitions

FOM Ch. VIII, A 2

- 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?

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- 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

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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

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



# Your Action Plan

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FOM Ch. III, B 2

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

# Pre-Investigation Planning

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



**Begin to Hypothesize!**

# Roles of the ITL

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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

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- 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

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# Thank You For Attending!

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## Final Questions?