
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FOR OSHA COMPLIANCE

Part Two: The 6 Step Process

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6 Step Process

1. Coordinating with Other Agencies
2. **Assessing the Scene/Collecting Evidence**
3. Interviewing Witnesses
4. Creating a Sequence of Events
5. Determining the Cause
6. Identifying OSHA Violations
7. Documenting the Findings

The First Steps...

FOM Ch. VIII, A 4

- Inform the employer.
- Describe what's involved.
- Explain the purpose.



....Now What?



Inspecting the Accident Scene

FOM Ch. VIII, B 2

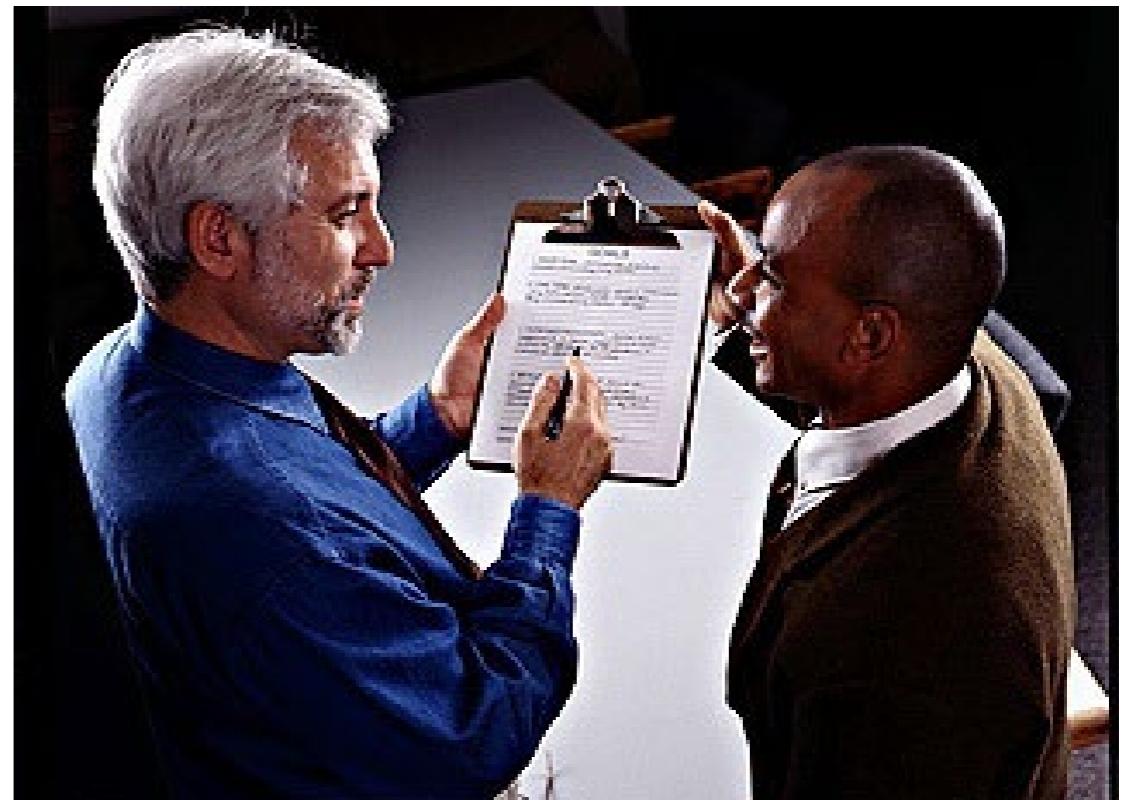
- Key reminder:
 - Your objective is to determine the cause of accident and if any OSH violations were involved.



Scope of the Inspection

FOM Ch III, B 2a

- **Partial** inspection
- Focus on the accident
- However...scope may be expanded!
- **IMPORTANT NEW** information in FOM CH VIII, B 2a, 2b and 2c



Investigation Equipment

- In pre-planning there was mention of selecting equipment.....well, what are some basic items you would want to have?

Your Safety

- Comply with all safety rules and practices at the establishment.
- Wear all safety clothing or PPE required by the employer.
- Be aware of hazards and take all necessary precautions.

Identifying Potential Hazards

- Use **worksheet** to identify potential hazards for each scenario.

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Preserving the Scene

- The entire scene must be considered physical evidence and protected accordingly
- The “as-found” condition of the scene should be preserved.
- The scene must be documented before changes are made.

Physical Evidence

- The building, structure or facility
- The buildings contents
- Utility systems
- Communication systems
- Air, water, other items that can be sampled
- Fire patterns
- Debris

Secure the Evidence

FOM Ch. VIII, B 2 e

- Evidence must be properly secured
 - Some evidence might be time sensitive
- Chain of custody
 - Receipt of evidence/property form



Preserving the Scene

- What methods can be used?
- What if you arrive later.....after the scene has been compromised or even cleaned-up?

Collecting and Identifying Evidence

- Name of person collecting data.
- Date and time of collection.
- Id number or case reference.
- Item designation and description.
- Location and orientation.

Evidence Containers

- Designed to
 - Preserve evidence in original form.
 - Prevent change of state.
 - Prevent contamination.

Evidence Containers

- Metal Cans
- Plastic Bags
- Plastic or Glass jars, vials, bottles

Personal Observation

- What are you going to take note of?

Photos and Videos

- Pay attention to lighting
- Up close and distant shots
- Different angles
- Panoramic shots
- Take notes – keep a shot list
- Document relative size
- The most important photo may be the one you failed to take, so always take as many images as necessary



Witnesses

- Obtain names and contact information
 - Witnesses .. Not just “eye witnesses”
 - Emergency responders
 - Supervisors
 - Coworkers who do the same job
 - Contractors
 - Former employees doing the same job
- Get initial statements

Sketching the Accident Scene

Example Sketch for a Fatality
Lumber Storage Area, ZYX Sawmill, Ltd.

Accident-Details

Time: 6.45 p.m.

Lighting: Dusk

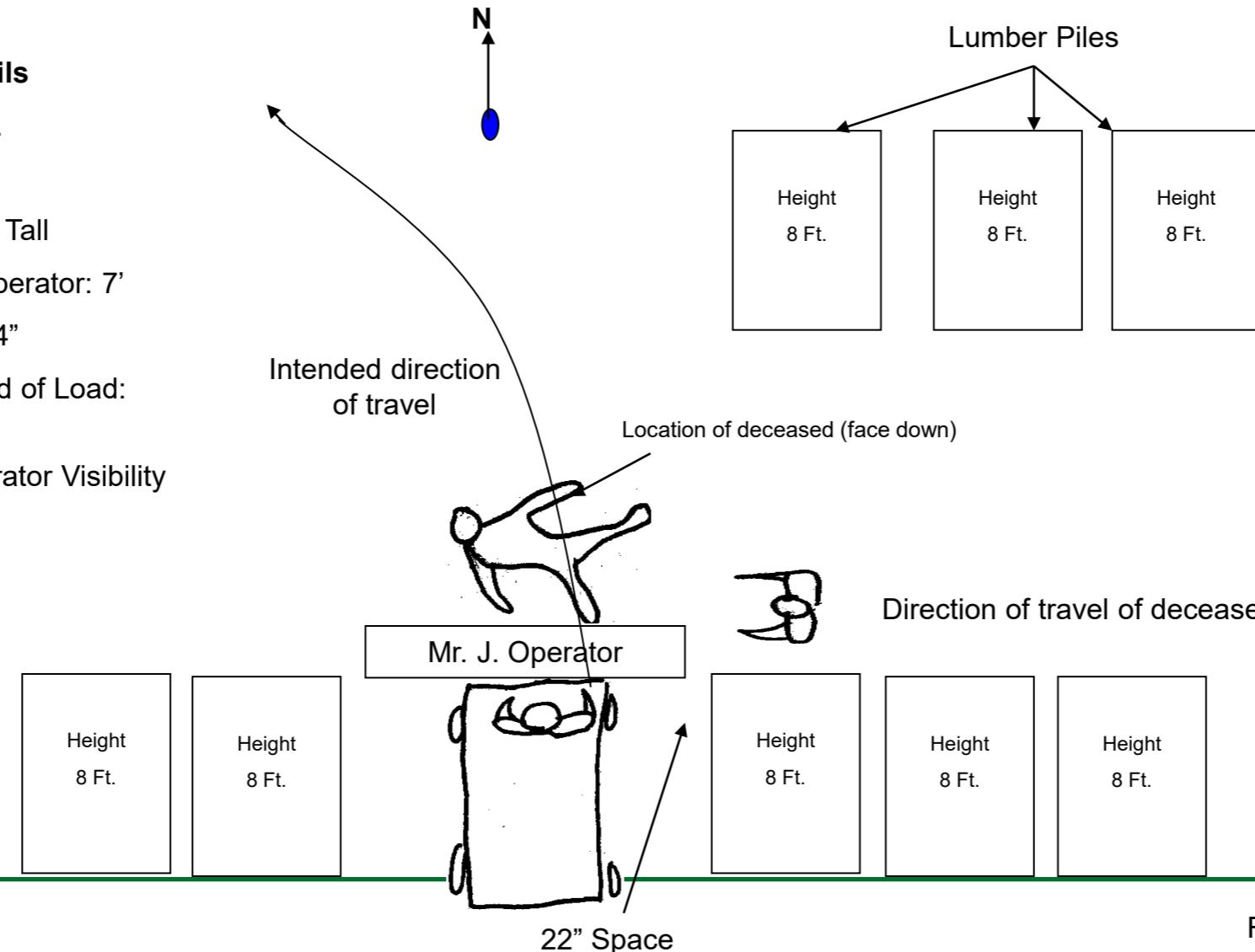
Deceased: 6'1" Tall

Eye Level of Operator: 7'

Top of Load: 9'4"

Traveling Speed of Load:
Approx. 5 mph

Very Poor Operator Visibility



Bayer Explosion Worksheet

- What hazards will the team be facing?
- How would you preserve the accident scene?
- What evidence would be important?
- How would you document the evidence?
- What evidence would you want to collect and store?

Summary

Thank You For Attending!

Final Questions?