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# **ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION FOR OSHA COMPLIANCE**

## **Part Two: The 6 Step Process**

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# 6 Step Process

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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?

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# 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.

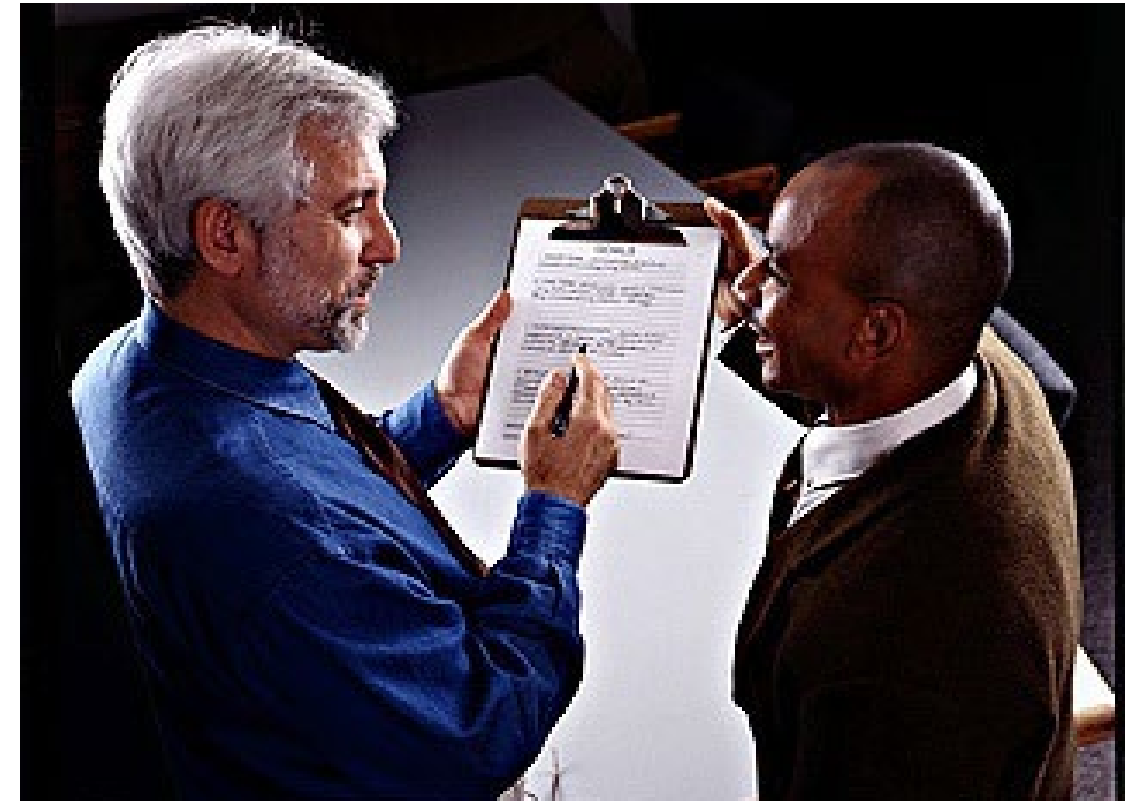


# Scope of the Inspection

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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

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

# Your Safety

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- 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

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

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# Preserving the Scene

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- 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

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- 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

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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

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



# Collecting and Identifying Evidence

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

# Evidence Containers

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

# Evidence Containers

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

# Personal Observation

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- What are you going to take note of?

# Photos and Videos

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- Pay attention to lighting
- Up close and distant shots
- Different angles
- Panaoramic 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

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- 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

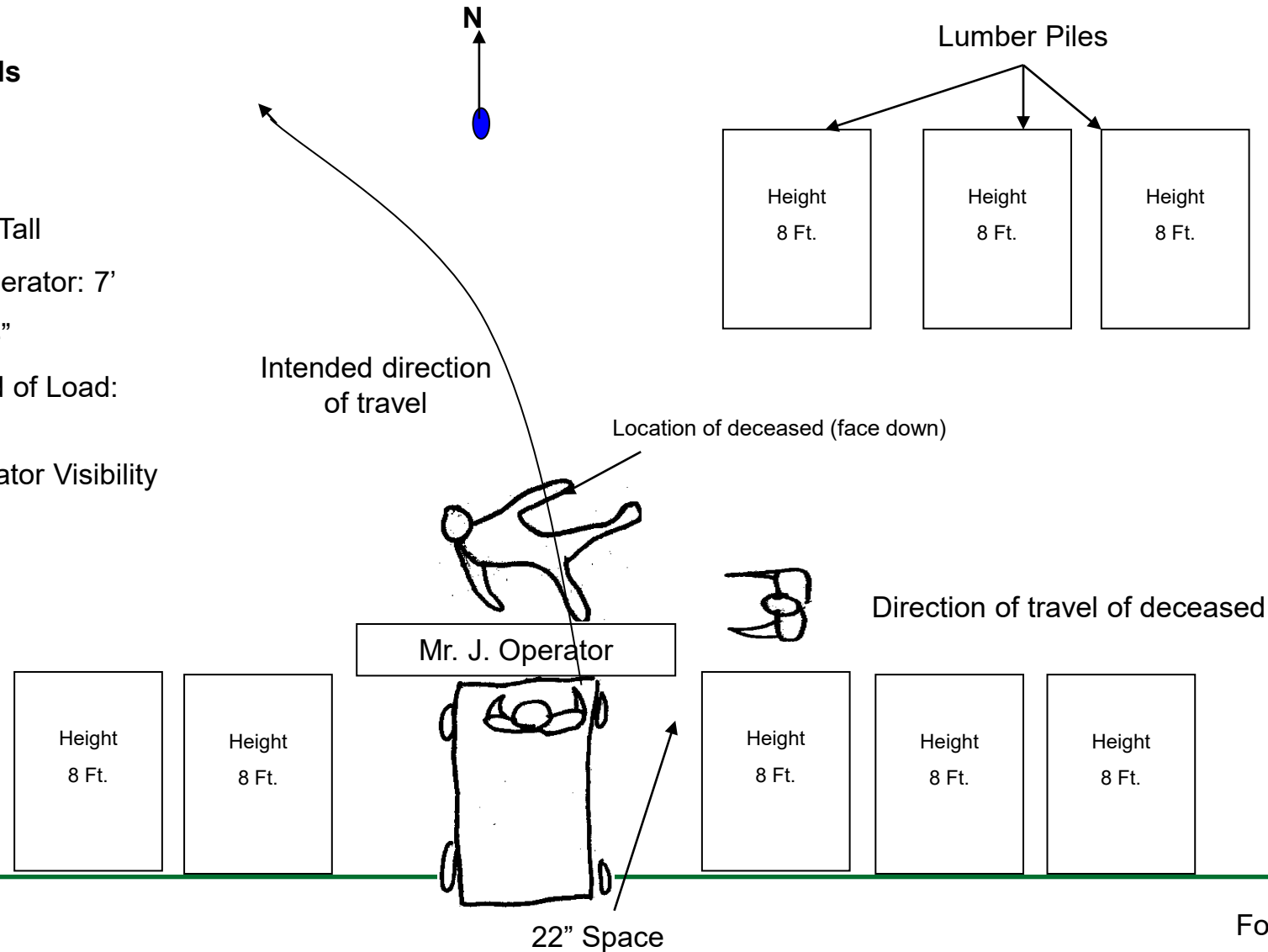
Deceased: 6'1" Tall

Eye Level of Operator: 7'

Top of Load: 9'4"

Traveling Speed of Load:  
Approx. 5 mph

Very Poor Operator Visibility



# Bayer Explosion Worksheet

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- 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

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# Thank You For Attending!

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## Final Questions?