



Occupational Safety and Health

Policy statement



The department will provide a safe and healthy work environment and maintain the safety and health of all employees and visitors, as far as reasonably practicable.

To support and demonstrate this, the department's safety management system meets or exceeds the requirements of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act, 1984* (OSH Act).

The goal of the department's safety management system is to improve safety and health performance through effective strategies.

The four key objectives of the safety management system are to:

1. maintain and continuously improve safety and health management strategies through effective and regular planning;
2. improve consultative and reporting mechanisms with regards to safety and health;
3. reduce the frequency and severity of safety and health risks through effective hazard management; and
4. train, supervise, support and motivate employees in safety and health matters.

As the regulator for Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in Western Australia, the department is committed to setting an example as a safety leader within the field of occupational safety and health.

Policy principles

To meet its commitment, the department will:

- ▶ Operate in accordance with the OSH Act and its supporting legislation and guidance material.
- ▶ Provide and promote the necessary resources, support and training to employees to enable them to carry out their functions safely and to achieve safety outcomes.
- ▶ Create and maintain a positive safety culture that encourages and supports all employees to apply relevant procedures and processes to protect themselves and others from harm. This includes zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour in the workplace, including any form of intimidating, aggressive or violent behaviour from employees, customers or visitors.
- ▶ Build an enduring reporting culture where risks, hazards, incidents and near misses are consistently reported, so that:
 - hazards are identified and the risk of injury or harm is assessed for each identified hazard;
 - as far as practicable, risks are eliminated or the risk to employee harm is reduced;
 - investigations identify root causes and appropriate action is taken to prevent reoccurrences;
 - a no-blame approach is adopted during investigations; and
 - those who provide services to the department adhere to the department's safety procedures.
- ▶ Develop targets and measures that demonstrate performance above and beyond minimum OSH legislative requirements.
- ▶ Achieve continuous improvement in safety and health through planning, monitoring, audit and review of measurable targets, objectives and initiatives.
- ▶ Encourage open, honest and effective consultation and communication between managers, employees and Safety and Health Representatives (SHRs), with the view to achieving a common understanding and resolution of all OSH issues.
- ▶ Provide high level support to the OSH Committee and elected SHRs, such that:
 - support and time is given to undertake OSH related tasks; and
 - action is taken to resolve reported OSH issues in a timely, effective and practicable manner.
- ▶ Promote innovation and learning in developing the most effective and efficient ways to meet its OSH responsibilities.

David Smith, Director General

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