

Accident Analysis - Fleet

Experience has proven that the most effective way to reduce accidents is to concentrate on one phase of the accident problem at a time, rather than attempting to stop all accidents at once. Even in large operations where hundreds of accidents may occur annually, only rarely do two accidents occur in exactly the same way. Accidents do fall in general patterns and by grouping them according to common features, patterns will be uncovered. Finding the common features and patterns of groups in accidents is the basis of accident analysis.

In order to analyze accident experience, it is essential that good reporting and accident investigation procedures be in place and functioning effectively. The information supplied on the accident investigation reports then only has to be assembled and tabulated into a group of four categories.

One method of collecting the data is to select the area of information from the accident reports and record a number of accidents that have occurred during any period of time selected. Any area of information can be selected. Examples of areas that can be used are **type of vehicle** – straight truck, trailer or pick up, **type of driving** – inner city, intracity, long haul, pick up and delivery, **time of accident** – hour, daylight, dusk or night, **accident type** – struck other vehicle, ran off the road, backing, etc., **accident site** – intersection, roadway, driveway, **road conditions** – wet, icy, fog, **our vehicle action** – going straight, turning, following, stopped, and the driver's experience with other company total.

There is no limit to the various areas of accident information that can be selected. It should include the name of the driver, day of the week, etc.

The next logical step, after tabulating the accident according to area, is to determine what specific features are common in the highest percentage of accidents. The conclusions reached will identify the principal areas to concentrate on for preventing accidents. Further study and evaluation of the key features may be necessary to determine why the features are common in the accidents. When the facts that directly lead to the cause of the accident have been uncovered, it should be evident what needs to be corrected. It then becomes necessary to give thought to the selection and application of an effective remedy.