

## Loss Control Policy Statement

Policy has been defined as “a written statement which expresses the wisdom, philosophy, experience and belief of a company’s top management for future guidance toward attainment of stated goals.” A Loss Control Policy Statement should therefore reflect the management’s philosophy and be compatible with the goals of the organization. This will provide the necessary guidance to everyone within the organization in the development and implementation of the loss control efforts.

There are many safety policies available for use. However, the most effective policy is one that expresses in a personal way, top management’s intentions and determination. It should also be written to insure that there will be no confusion concerning direction and assignment of responsibilities.

Safety Performance of an organization will be dependent upon the actions taken by all of the individuals within the organization. One of the most important questions that will affect an individual’s decision on the course of action that will be taken is, what does the boss want from me? The safety policy will provide the necessary guidance in answering these questions.

Once written, the policy should be issued and assigned by the Chief Executive Officer or President. The precise form of a written safety policy is not as important as it’s clarity in stating management’s sincere desires. The policy should reflect their thoughts on the following:

1. What is the purpose of the Safety Program?
2. Will the Safety Program cover only on the job safety, or will it include off the job, fleet, public, property damage, fire, and/or product safety?
3. Who will be assigned safety responsibilities and what will their duties be?
4. Will there be safety assistance in the form of a Safety Director or Safety Committee?
5. Who will have the authority to administer the Safety Program?
6. Which standards will guide the Program?

Once formulated, written and printed, the policy must be conveyed to all employees. Additional copies should be posted where appropriate as a constant reminder.

In an effort to maintain employee awareness of top management’s commitment to safety, the policy statement should be issued annually. Any new goals and objectives will be publicized in this manner.

The safety policy statement is management’s express of the direction to be followed. The benefits are:

1. It makes it easier to enforce safe practices and conditions.
2. It makes it easier for supervisors to comply with company policies.
3. It makes it easier for employees to follow safety instructions.

Examples of a Loss Control Policy Statement: I consider safety of personnel the first importance in our operation, and I ask your full cooperation in making this policy effective.

We can and must operate our company without accidents. Safety is one of the most important responsibilities each of us has as a management representative. It is important because failure to succeed means hardship for employees and their families, and loss of prestige for the company. If we utilize to the fullest the talents of our management team, I feel certain our efforts to achieve accident free operations will be successful.

Every employee has an important place in the accident prevention program and is expected to cooperate fully in the measures taken for safety. The safety of employees continues to be the first consideration in the operation of a business. Working conditions should not only meet accepted standards for the protection, safety and health of employees, but should be maintained in a clean and orderly state, so as to encourage efficient operations and satisfied employees.