

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs: 72014

Lead Agency: County Management
Program Contact: Mindy Harris

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Safety and Health Section (SHS) oversees the loss prevention efforts of Multnomah County. The section assists each department in meeting the loss prevention requirements for workers' compensation self-insured employer and OR-OSHA compliance.

Program Description

The SHS work is aimed at reducing employee injuries and employer liability. It consults with County departments to assist in providing a safe environment for both employees and the public. It helps identify and abate deficiencies related to workplace safety and health regulations. All loss prevention activity needed to maintain the workers' compensation self-insured status is managed from the SHS.

Program Justification

SHS develops compliance and best practice policies and procedures to benefit County employees and reduce liability costs. The SHS is responsible for State regulatory program development and oversight. This assignment eliminates duplication and consistently promotes the County's safety culture. The staff's high level of expertise and ability enables the SHS to provide cost effective consultative services to all County departments. The staff analyzes data, performs assessments, trains employees and supervisors, provides recommendations, and assists with corrective action implementation. All activity is designed to promote continual improvement towards reducing work place injury and illness so employees can stay on the job.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	24 annual site safety visits designed to meet loss prevention requirements	18	20	20	24
Outcome	% of site safety visit recommendations completed within designated time frames	0%	0%	70%	85%
Outcome	Lower overall loss incident rate keeping below industry standard of 5.4	51	51	51	50
Outcome	Minimal number of time loss claims	71	60	45	40

Performance Measure - Description

1. Perform 24 site safety visits per year across all departments and assist departments in abatement efforts for identified deficiencies. We are able to increase our service output while continuing with the same FTE due to the expertise of new personnel.
2. Site Safety Visits are designed to recognize and abate hazards that could cause employee injury. The safety section guides work-site management with corrective action implementation within designated time frames. The safety section determines time frames to correct deficiencies based on industry standards. Measurements not previously recorded.
3. An industry key measurement of safety program effectiveness is the number of claims per 100 full time employees, known as an incident rate. Using the Oregon average incident rate for local government as a benchmark (5.4) the goal is to annually be below that benchmark. Activities impacting the incident rate include training, risk assessments, exposure monitoring, ergonomic evaluations, and various other tasks. An added benefit to lower than average incident rates is lower OR-OSHA fines during compliance inspections.
4. Time loss claims are the most severe and costly. This program focuses on best practice efforts to reduce the cost of claims as well as providing a safe work environment. Identifying time loss trends and working with departments to implement improvements will decrease the number of time loss claims and the related costs to the County.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code 7.102 and 7.103 establishes the safety program in the County. Oregon Safe Employment Act, Div. 1 and 2. establishes minimum safety standards for employers. OAR 437-001-1055 and 1060 requires each self-insured employer to have a written loss prevention plan for each location, and to provide safety and health loss prevention services.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2006	2006	2007	2007
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$0	\$185,017	\$0	\$195,423
Contracts	\$0	\$61,000	\$0	\$45,000
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$20,975	\$0	\$25,600
Internal Services	\$0	\$13,847	\$0	\$25,894
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$280,839	\$0	\$291,917
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$9,983	\$684
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$2,458	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$12,441	\$684
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$280,839	\$12,441	\$292,601
Program Total:	\$280,839		\$305,042	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$341,995	\$0	\$341,955
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$820	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$341,995	\$820	\$341,955

Explanation of Revenues

The Safety and Health section receives its revenues through internal service reimbursements from each county department.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #71013, Human Resources - Safety Program