

Serious injury and fatality prevention

Key takeaways:

- It takes a different approach to address SIFs, which can be broken down into ten categories, called the Fatal 10.
- The Fatal 10 have a higher degree of risk when combined with red-flag situations. A closer look is needed to identify gaps and make sure tight prevention measures are in place.
- Employee involvement and feedback is essential in identifying and controlling SIF potential beyond routine safety programs.

A serious injury or fatality (SIF) is a life-threatening injury or illness that is likely to lead to death or to be life-altering, leaving the worker very limited or without use of an internal organ, body function, or body part. A few examples are significant head injuries, paralysis, and amputations.

Managing routine safety programs without identifying SIF potential can leave your business vulnerable. It takes a different approach to address SIFs, which can be broken down into ten categories, called the Fatal 10. The Fatal 10 have a higher degree of risk when combined with red-flag situations. You need to look closer to identify gaps and make sure tight prevention measures are in place when the Fatal 10 and Red-flags combine. This list is not all-inclusive; it outlines the most common categories and combining risks.

Fatal 10

- Hazardous materials/environmental exposure
- Electrical/arc flash hazards
- Fire/explosion/hot work
- Confined spaces/trenching/engulfment
- Suspended loads
- Struck by objects and equipment

Red-flag situations

- Nonroutine work
- Stressors - physical/environmental
- Fatigue
- Production pressures
- Inadequate supervision and follow-through
- Working alone
- Inadequate operating procedures, training, or follow-up
- Poor equipment or task design
- New employees
- Lack of engineering controls

Take action (Complete one or more activities as a team)

- DISCUSSION:** Share stories of serious injuries or near misses that have happened to you or someone you know. Could anything similar occur here?
- FIELD TRIP:** Complete a walkthrough with the Fatal 10 list and identify possible sources of SIFs. Discuss the effectiveness of current controls and if there are areas where additional controls or audits are needed, then prioritize two or three to address in the next year.
- ANALYSIS:** Review Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) reports and other industry reports on serious losses. Discuss the possibility of a similar injury or fatality in your workplace and steps for prevention.

