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Submission date: 24-Feb-2021 05:22AM (UTC+0300)
Submission ID: 1516656969
File name: Safety_Management_Systems.edited.docx (17.09K)
Word count: 634
Character count: 4077

Safety Management Systems

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Safety Management Systems

Safety Management Systems is a well-designed approach to the management of safety risks in organizational. Depending on the size of an organization, SMS can be designed to meet an organization's needs in terms of complexity. However, four main pillars of SMS apply to most organizations: safety policy together with safety risk management not forgetting safety assurance as well as safety promotion (Aviationsafetyblog, 2018). Safety policy primarily involves management's commitment to ensure safety and the plan on the safety roles of the management together with employees. Secondly, SMS's other pillar is risk management, and most organizations have mainly focused on this component. The risk management process begins with identifying hazards through reactive, proactive and predictive methods (Aviationsafetyblog, 2018). The identified risks are later assessed to understand the consequences involved and the findings are forwarded to the organization members for better management.

Consequently, the safety assurance pillar involves assessing the state of the organization concerning safety. The activities of safety assurance include sharing of safety information and time to time improvement of the SMS. Lastly, safety promotion focus on ensuring the involved personnel is well trained to carry out safety responsibilities.

SMS and Risk Management

In a realistic approach, eliminating all risks in an organization's processes is impossible, while mitigating the problems may be difficult due to the high costs involved. The SMS provides a well-structured framework that helps manage risk more practically and realistically (SafetyTek, 2020). Besides, the SMS breaks down risk management into three processes to enhance close monitoring. By use of reactive and proactive, processes that may lead to undesired effects are

first identified. The risks are later critically assessed to determine the acceptable risks and those that are likely to cause harm. Thus, the unacceptable risks are mitigated in the third process or controlled depending on the available resources (SafetyTek, 2020). As a result, the use of SMS in risk management is admirable as it provides for the analysis of cost-benefit even when the action is to do nothing.

Value of SMS on proactive and Predictive Programs

Proactive and predictive safety programs aim at identifying threats and mitigating them to avoid the occurrence of risks. Normally, proactive highlights safety issues before they take place, while predictive programs forecast the future grounded on given circumstances (Aviationsafetyblog, 2017). SMS is crucial to such programs, especially the proactive safety program, mostly used only with a mature SMS program. The proactive programs involve monitoring business processes to identify flaws and put in place necessary controls. Besides, data is collected through inspections and reports from employees. Proactive safety programs majorly depend on quality safety data, skills to monitor complex safety issues and well-laid safety culture to assess underlying threats (Aviationsafetyblog, 2017). Therefore, SMS becomes essential in providing the framework to ensure strong safety policies, compelling collection of data and high skills training to assess risks through proactive programs.

On the other hand, predictive safety programs rely on past scenarios to identify future threats hypothetically and outline possible measures. Similar to proactive programs, predictive management involves collecting data, in this case, past data and critical analysis of the data. For that reason, the SMS pillars are essential in ensuring that the past strategies used are applied in the future as the system provides for proper documentation (Aviationsafetyblog, 2017). As a

result, organizations can quickly identify similarities between past and future events and act accordingly.

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