New DOT System Quantifies Motor Carriers' On-Road Performance

The Department of Transportation is now using a Safety Measurement System (SMS) that quantifies inspection and crash violations to determine a commercial motor carrier's safety performance. The department's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is using SMS data to devise corrective interventions that are specific to a carrier's problems. The system updates the data monthly, and motor carriers can see their SMS results online (using their USDOT number and motor carrier PIN number).

FMCSA - http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/sms/

Stress = $$$

The problem of work-related stress is a bottom-line issue, even if it's not actually a line item cost on a business's budget. It's a group of hidden costs, including 1) higher injury/illness rates from unsafe behavior that's stress related, 2) increased absenteeism, 3) more turnover (and the administrative costs in recruiting, hiring, and training replacements), 4) premature retirement (and pension payments), and 5) reduced productivity. The World Congress on Health and Safety at Work estimates that businesses worldwide lose 40.2 million working days annually, one-third of them (13.4 million) are from stress, anxiety and depression. The good news: workplace stress can be managed.


Empowered Workers Are Better Workers

A study by a professor at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business shows that empowered employees are not only satisfied but productive and innovative. The positive effects of empowerment cut across jobs, industries, geographic regions, gender, and culture. Professor Scott Seibert examined 140 studies and identified the factors common to effective empowerment initiatives.


Hair Salon Workers: Formaldehyde Alert

Federal OSHA and several state programs, which have been investigating complaints from stylists and hair salon owners about exposure to formaldehyde, have found the substance in the air when certain products (some labeled "formaldehyde-free") have been used. Nosebleeds, eye irritation, and breathing problems were among the reported symptoms. The OSHA Hazard Alert explains the health hazards of formaldehyde, mechanism of exposure, and the substances that are alternative names for (or are treated as) formaldehyde.

OSHA (Hazard Alert) - www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde/hazard_alert.html