



SAFETY COMMITTEE PROS AND CONS

*Prepared by Chief Executive Office, Risk Management Branch
Loss Control and Prevention Section
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Pros

A Safety Committee, with the support of management:

- Demonstrates the department's commitment to the health and safety of its employees,
- Gives authority and commitment to the Safety Committee's loss control and prevention effort.

The Safety Committee can be an effective forum to:

- Discuss, evaluate and resolve loss control and loss prevention issues,
- Utilize expertise within the department to help resolve issues,
- Justify funding for corrective action,
- Communicate loss control and prevention issues within the department. Minutes of the meetings can be used to communicate both up and down the command structure.

Policies and procedures developed by consensus within the Safety Committee are considered more equitable and unbiased as compared to those developed by the Safety Office alone.

The Safety Officer and staff are more visible.

The Committee can be used to comply with the Cal/OSHA IIPP communication requirement if it complies with the seven requirements for a labor/management safety and health committee under Title 8, CCR, Section 3203.

Cons

Additional work load for most Committee members. The Committee requires members who have authority, are committed, and are willing to work with other Committee members to resolve health and safety issues for the protection of all employees.