



eBook

Ultimate Guide to Workplace Safety:

6 Key Reasons To Invest in EHS

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Let's Acquaint Ourselves With the Acronyms

So, what does EHS stand for? EHS (environment, health and safety) is an umbrella term used for all the rules, laws, programs and actions put in place to support the health and safety of employees, customers and the environment in which an organization operates.

Depending on where you are located this can also be referred to as HSE (health, safety and environment) or EHSQ (environmental, health, safety and quality).

What Is EHS?

EHS is a term that encompasses many processes, guidelines and initiatives that build towards maintaining safe operations.

When 'environment' is discussed, it means the natural world in which people, animals or plants live or operate. As in, "am I releasing toxic chemicals into the environment or polluting a stream?" 'Health' refers to anything that could negatively impact the physical or mental condition of an employee. 'Safety' relates to the organized measures a company takes to identify workplace hazards, thereby protecting employees and the workplace.



Why Is EHS Important?

Every person has the right to work in a safe and fulfilling environment. EHS helps protect the lives of your employees.

Behind every safety related statistic is a name and family and they deserve to have their family come home safely.

Safety is a legal obligation and poor EHS management will lead to:

- ✔ Increase in costs (fines, claims, etc.)
- ✔ Disruption to operational efficiency
- ✔ Decrease in employee morale and retention
- ✔ Loss of future investment
- ✔ Damage to business reputation

Good EHS management is a core part of the operational ecosystem and doing it well can promote engagement and wider productivity benefits.

Which is why it's time to shift the mentality on EHS to safe operations being an organization's #1 priority.



Incidents such as the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which caused 57,500 square miles of petroleum leakage



The Rana Plaza accident was a building collapse that



Both serve as powerful reminders of the importance of truly prioritizing EHS.

While it is easy to forget that hazards exist in our day-to-day lives, by placing safety at the heart of effective operations, tragedies like these may be avoided.

The Western world's outlook on employee health and safety has changed drastically over the last few decades, with legislation being brought in during the 1970s to provide more protection for employees than ever before.

Thanks to the **Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970** (passed to prevent workers from being killed or harmed at work), employees in the United States have the right to a safe and healthy place of work, while the **UK's Health and Safety at Work etc Act of 1974** lays out specific health and safety responsibilities for employees and employers alike.

What Are the Benefits of EHS?

Having an EHS department provides clear evidence that companies are not only serious about complying with governmental regulations, but also that they truly care about their employee's health, safety, well-being and happiness – promoting a positive work environment.

The benefits of a comprehensive EHS program are numerous. Even if you don't work in a high-risk environment, making safe operations your #1 priority is beneficial for the following reasons:



Reducing the days of missed work for employees



The Health and Safety Executive estimated that in 2019, the average person suffering from a work-related illness in the UK took about 17.6 days off work.

Similarly in the US, the National Safety Congress estimates that 99,000,000 days were lost in 2020 as a result of work-related injuries.

Reduction in legal issues brought on by workplace incidents



According to Health and Safety Executive, organizations in the UK tried in a magistrates court can expect to pay between £5,000 to £20,000 in fines. Organizations may also have to pay compensation and legal fees.

In 2019 the National Council on Compensation Insurance stated that the average cost on a US worker's comp claim was \$42,008.

Eradicating employee fears surrounding potential accidents



According to Richard Powell, Head of Personal Injury Claims at JMW Solicitors, more than a quarter of employees do not report a workplace injury for fear of financial repercussions from their employer.

Increasing company profit



Incidents incur a range of direct and indirect costs to employers.

For example, an incident with a direct cost of \$5,000 will mean that the organization will need to generate \$227,000 to cover the incident cost, according to Bill Gourdie, Health and Safety director at GAI.

Improved public image



By taking a firm stand on health, safety and the environment, public recognition and loyalty from customers, partners and investors is bolstered.

In 2020, the National Safety Council calculated that the total cost to employers for work injuries was over \$163 billion which includes \$44.8 billion in wage and productivity losses.

Which Businesses Need To Consider EHS?

The pressure on companies to be more transparent about their EHS practices is growing stronger.

The industries with the highest need for EHS are as follows:

Manufacturing



Transportation



Construction



Engineering



Utilities



Industrial



Warehousing



Food & Drink



Pharmaceuticals



Healthcare



Sports & Leisure



Education



Housing



Retail



Office-based



Forestry



Architecture

Despite being dotted across a variety of areas, these industries have at least one (if not a few, or even all) of the following risks in common:

Slips, trips and falls



Fire related hazards



Exposure to harmful and toxic substances



Contact with heavy machinery and electrical equipment



Accidents involving collision with other vehicles



Managing work through extreme heat or cold



What Are the Benefits of EHS Software?

In a nutshell, EHS software helps you manage your environment, health and safety program to keep your workers happy and safe, all while helping you reach your corporate operational goals.

EHS software provides the means to capture, store and organize information and workflows to demonstrate compliance and track insights in one unified system. **The top 11 benefits of using EHS software include:**

1

Ability to embed the right process to meet safety regulations and visibility to monitor compliance across multiple sites.

2

A more streamlined mechanism for incident reporting/investigating while on-the-go.

3

Less use of spreadsheets, meaning one single entry of data that minimizes admin time and potential human errors.

4

Powerful business intelligence that reduces time spent on assembling reports.

5

Streamlining of data collection to one central location that securely stores all incident details and support documents.

6

Better data collection consistency through centralizing information leading to quality data to make smarter decisions.

7

The ability to more effectively educate staff with interactive EHS training.

8

The capability to spot incident patterns and root causes easily leading to improved risk migration.

9

Staying up-to-date with changing legal obligations around EHS.

10

Boosting your company's reputation by being transparent about your environmental footprint.

11

Increased employee morale and engagement by giving employees more direct control over safety to empower them to be a positive force for change.



EHS Manager Role

Job Title:

Health and Safety Manager

Job Description:

An EHS manager is responsible for developing, implementing and overseeing the health and safety program of an organization. Responsibilities of an EHS manager include:

- The management of health and safety systems
- Coordinating and delivering safety training
- Job hazard analysis
- Implementing controls for hazards
- Performing risk management duties
- Improving human and operational performance
- Working to reduce emissions
- And so much more!

Due to the multi-faceted nature of EHS, the role may be split across several jobs. Safety officers, for example, are more exclusively responsible for carrying out observations, inspections and safety training. EHS managers are vital in many organizations and keep the business profitable, operational and safe.

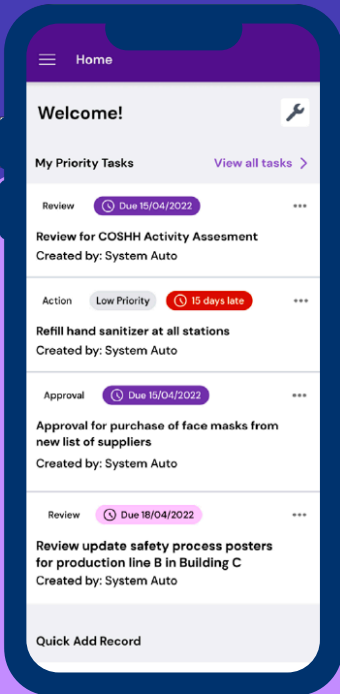
For a more in-depth review of the role of EHS managers, have a look at [our article](#).



How Can Evotix Help?

The job of an EHS professional can easily seem overwhelming, which is why EHS software solutions are excellent tools to help streamline and assist with EHS processes. Evotix provides EHS software that is designed to be user-friendly and intuitive to help automate all your critical safety activities in one system.

Evotix offers Assure, a platform that seamlessly tracks your data to provide insights that put you ahead of the curve, boost engagement and keep your people safe. Assure offers tools to help with:



To learn more about Evotix's EHS software solution, visit our resource library for compelling case studies and additional material to help get you started!

[Learn more](#)



- Incident management
- Risk management
- Audits and inspection
- Training and learning
- Environment monitoring
- Contractor management
- Asset management
- Behavior management
- AssureGO+, a mobile web app

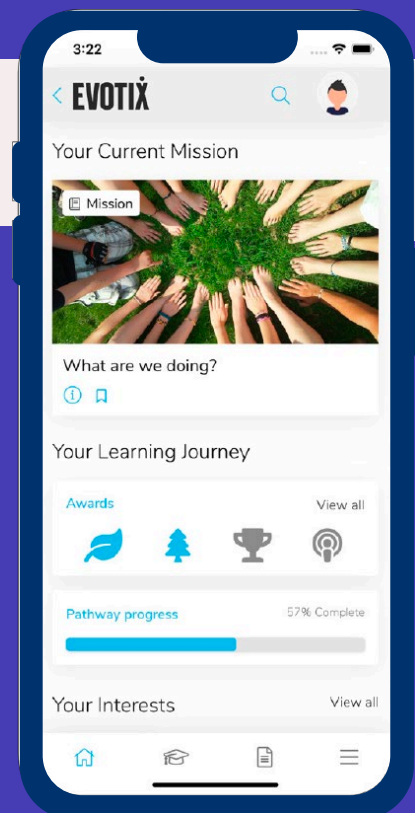
Evotix also offers Learn, a training solution that ensures training and tracking across organizations and uses microlearning to embed learning throughout the everyday. Learn helps reach all people at your organization, with adaptable, targeted and compelling content.

We hope this article has given you a better understanding of EHS, why it's important and the tools you can put in place to improve your EHS processes.

Embracing EHS will not only benefit employees, who feel safer and more valued but also secure your standing as an organization that believes in safe operations – a valuable currency in the modern world.

Click here to find out more about Evotix Learn and support your frontline workers today!

[Learn more](#)



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Let's chat

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Our Evotix team is passionate about applying market leading technology to create safer, smarter workplaces, partnering with organizations that value people's safety, communities and the planet.

As safety professionals and long-term leaders in the Verdantix EHS Green Quadrant, our deep and practical insight addresses your evolving needs, helping you achieve your health, safety and sustainability goals.

Evotix: your all-around partner for the journey.

