



nebosh

Element 1

The foundations of health and safety



Learning outcomes

On completion of this element you should be able to:

- outline the scope and nature of workplace health and safety;
- identify the reasons for practicing good standards of health and safety;
- outline the role of workplace health, safety and fire law, the role of enforcement agencies and possible enforcement actions; and
- identify the key internal and external sources of health and safety information.

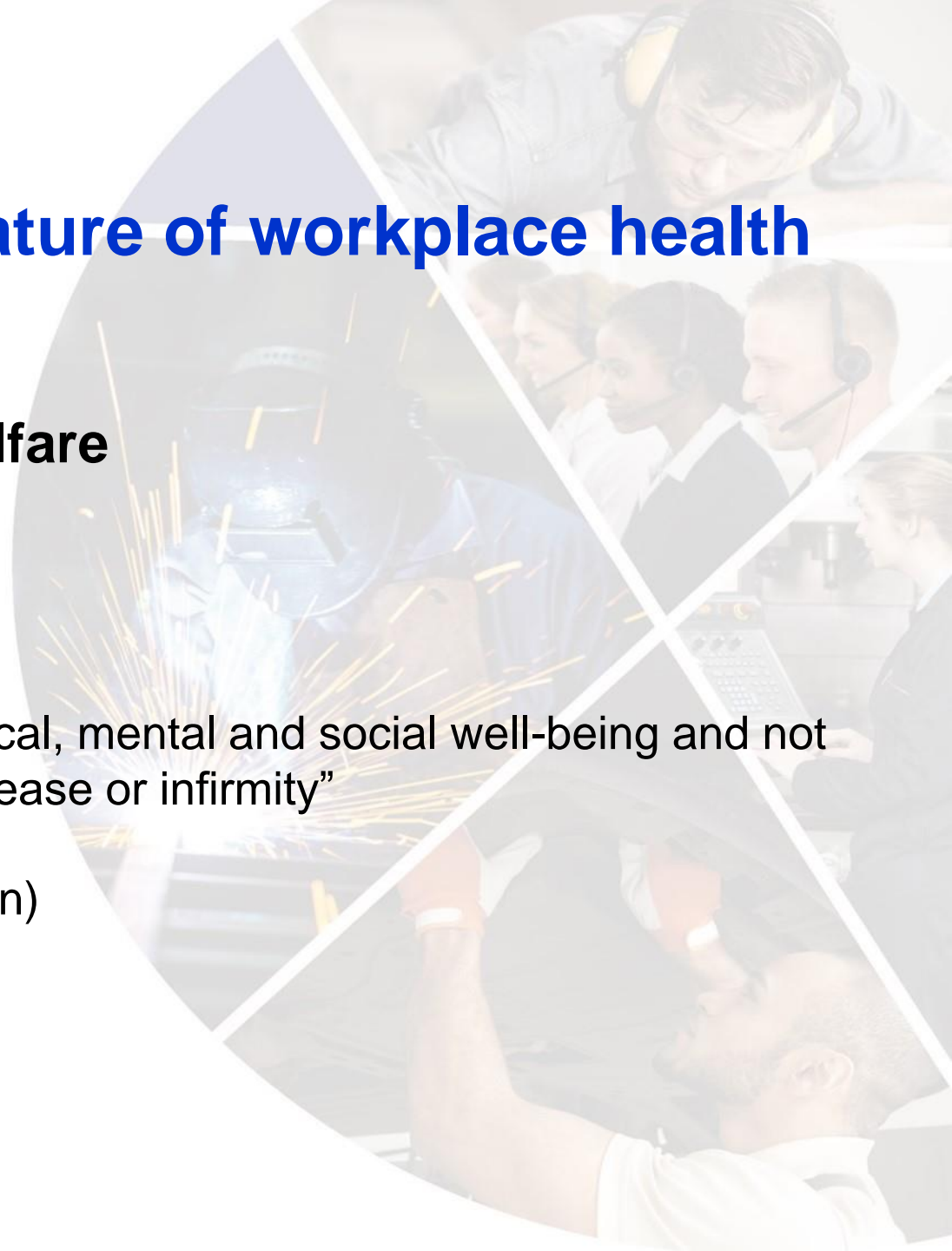
The scope and nature of workplace health and safety

Health, safety and welfare

Health

“A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

(World Health Organisation)



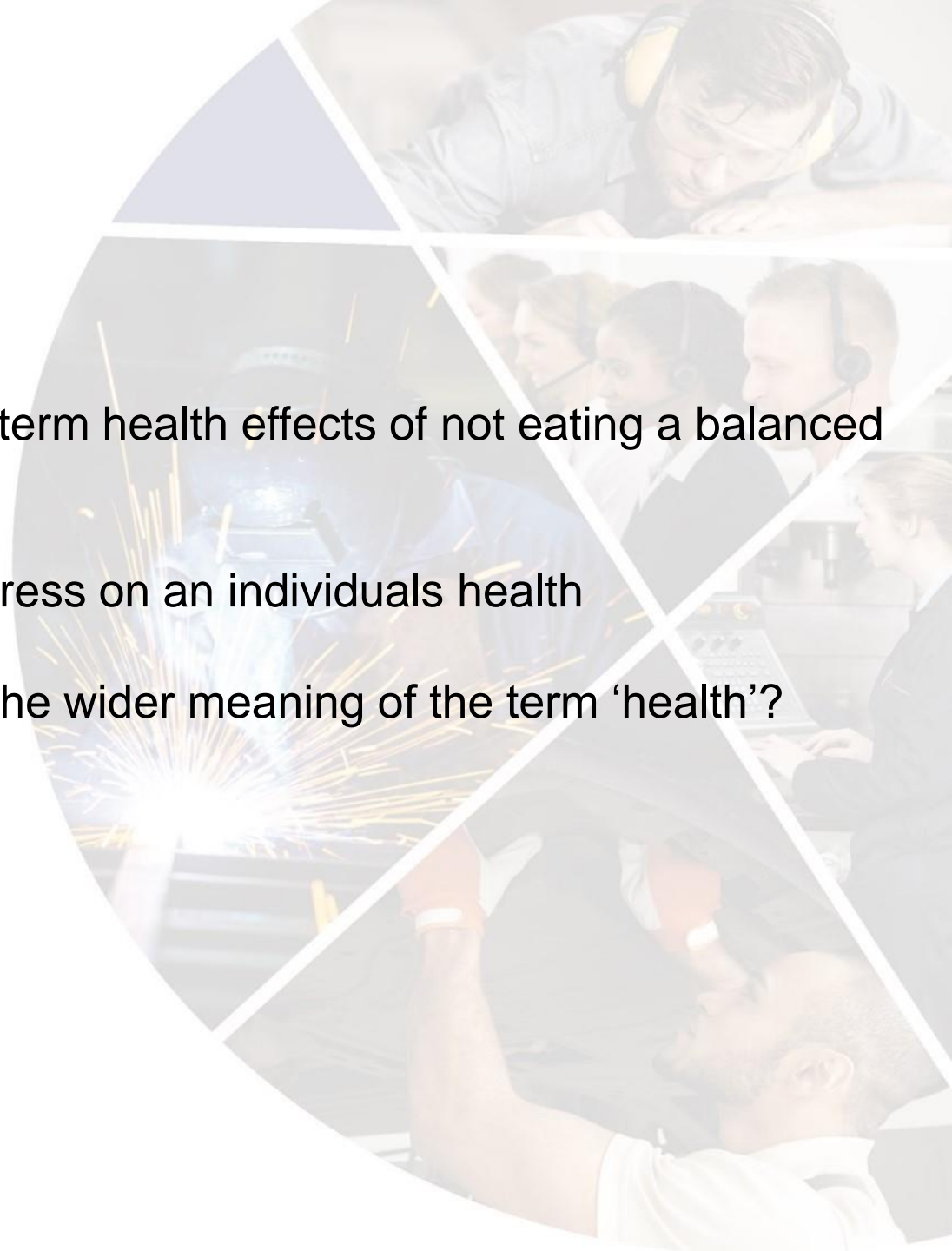


Activity

Think about:

- The short-term and long-term health effects of not eating a balanced diet
- The possible effects of stress on an individual's health

Can you now begin to see the wider meaning of the term 'health'?



Health and safety

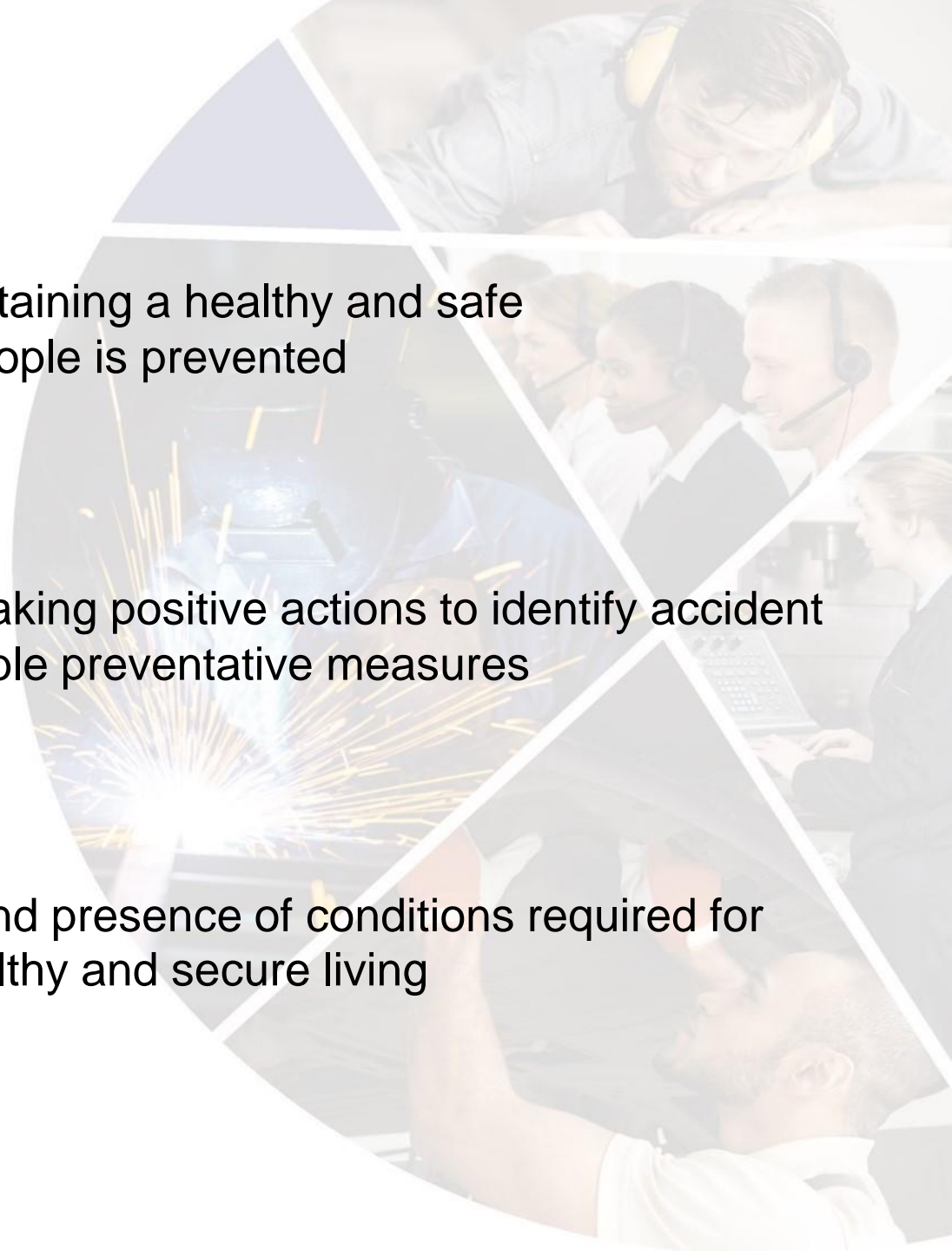
Refers to all aspects of maintaining a healthy and safe workplace where harm to people is prevented

Safety

The results of ALL persons taking positive actions to identify accident causes and implement suitable preventative measures

Welfare

The availability of facilities and presence of conditions required for reasonably comfortable, healthy and secure living



Accident, dangerous occurrence, near-miss and work-related ill-health



Accident

An unplanned occurrence which results in some loss, often an injury

Dangerous occurrence

“A readily identifiable event as defined under national laws and regulations, with potential to cause injury or disease to persons at work or the public”

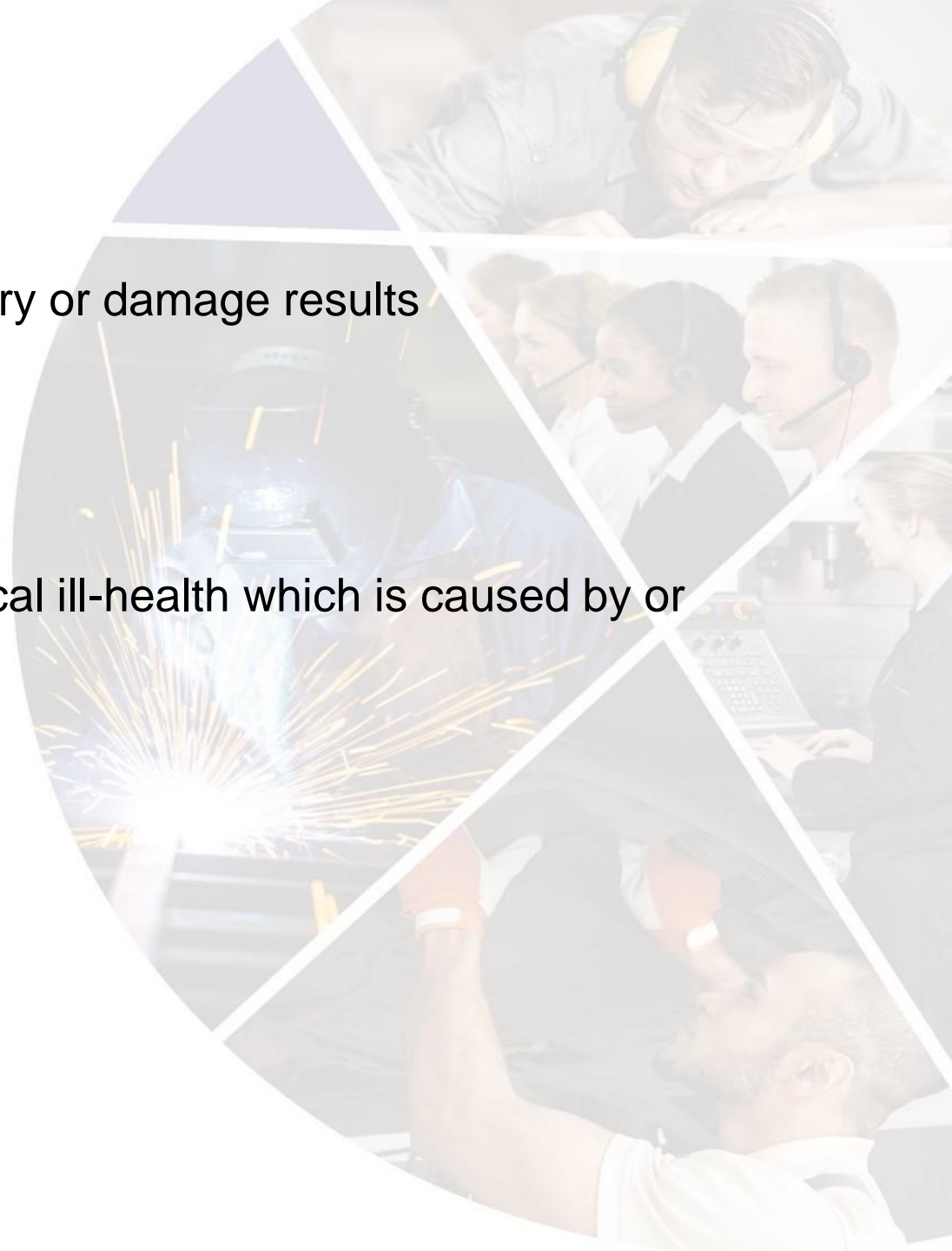
(International Labour Organisation)

Near miss

An incident in which no injury or damage results

Work-related ill-health

Any physical or psychological ill-health which is caused by or affected by your work

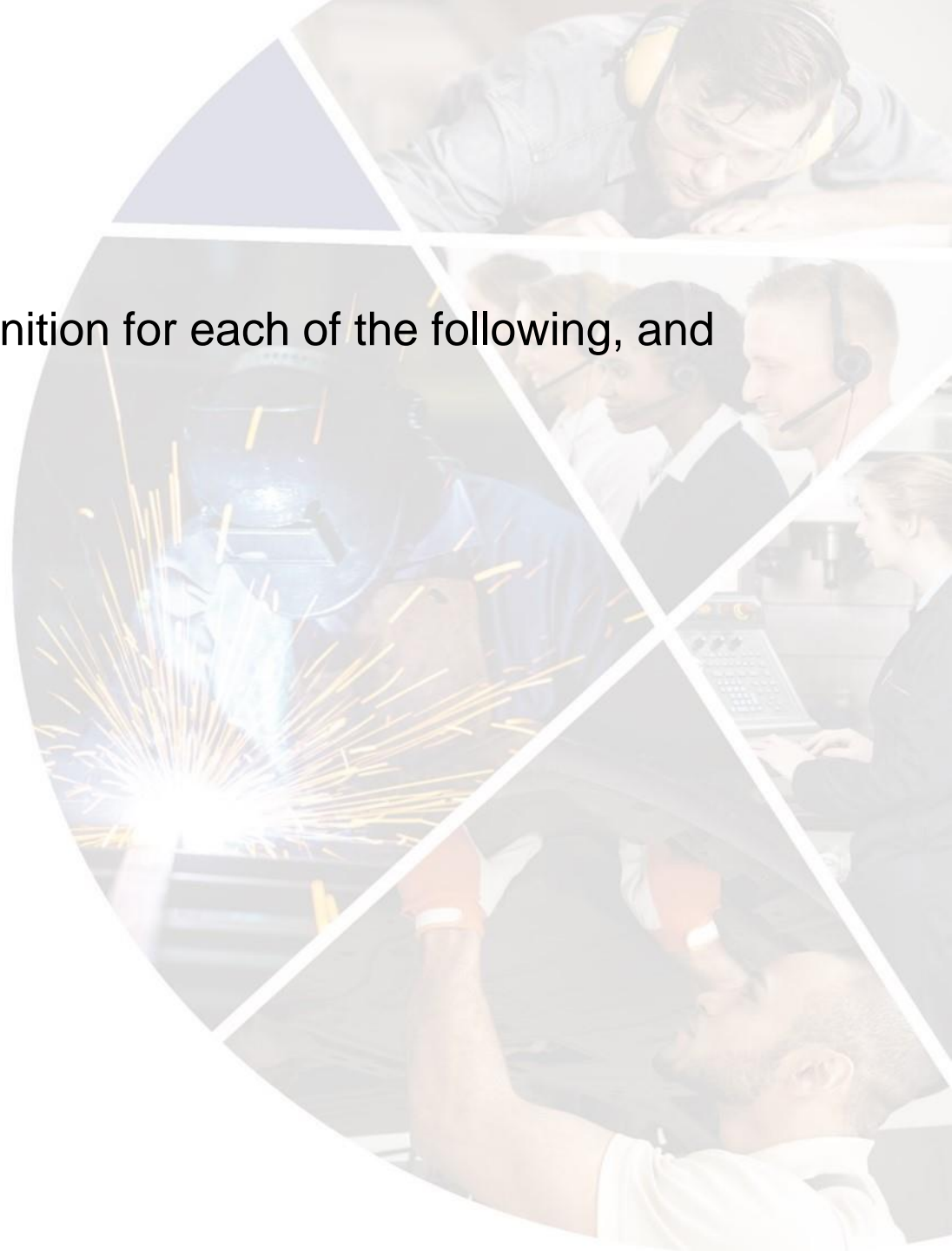




Activity

Can you remember the definition for each of the following, and provide some examples?

- Health
- Safety
- Welfare
- Accident
- Dangerous occurrence
- Near miss
- Work-related ill-health



Reasons for managing health and safety

The moral reasons

Moral / ethical / humanitarian – trying to do the right thing

ILO estimate that as many as 2.3 million people die each year as a result of work-related accidents and diseases

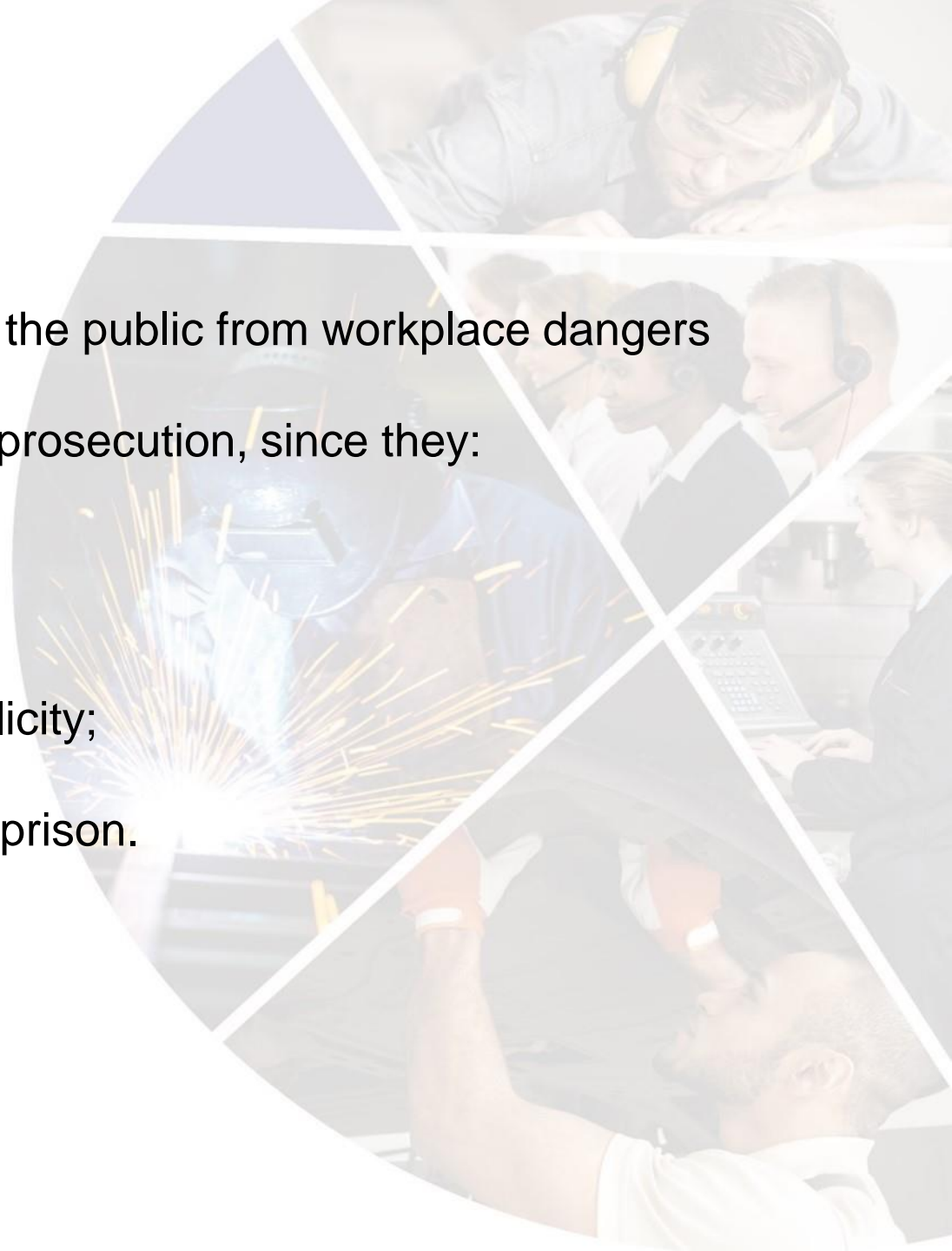


The legal reasons

Laws protect workers and the public from workplace dangers

Businesses wish to avoid prosecution, since they:

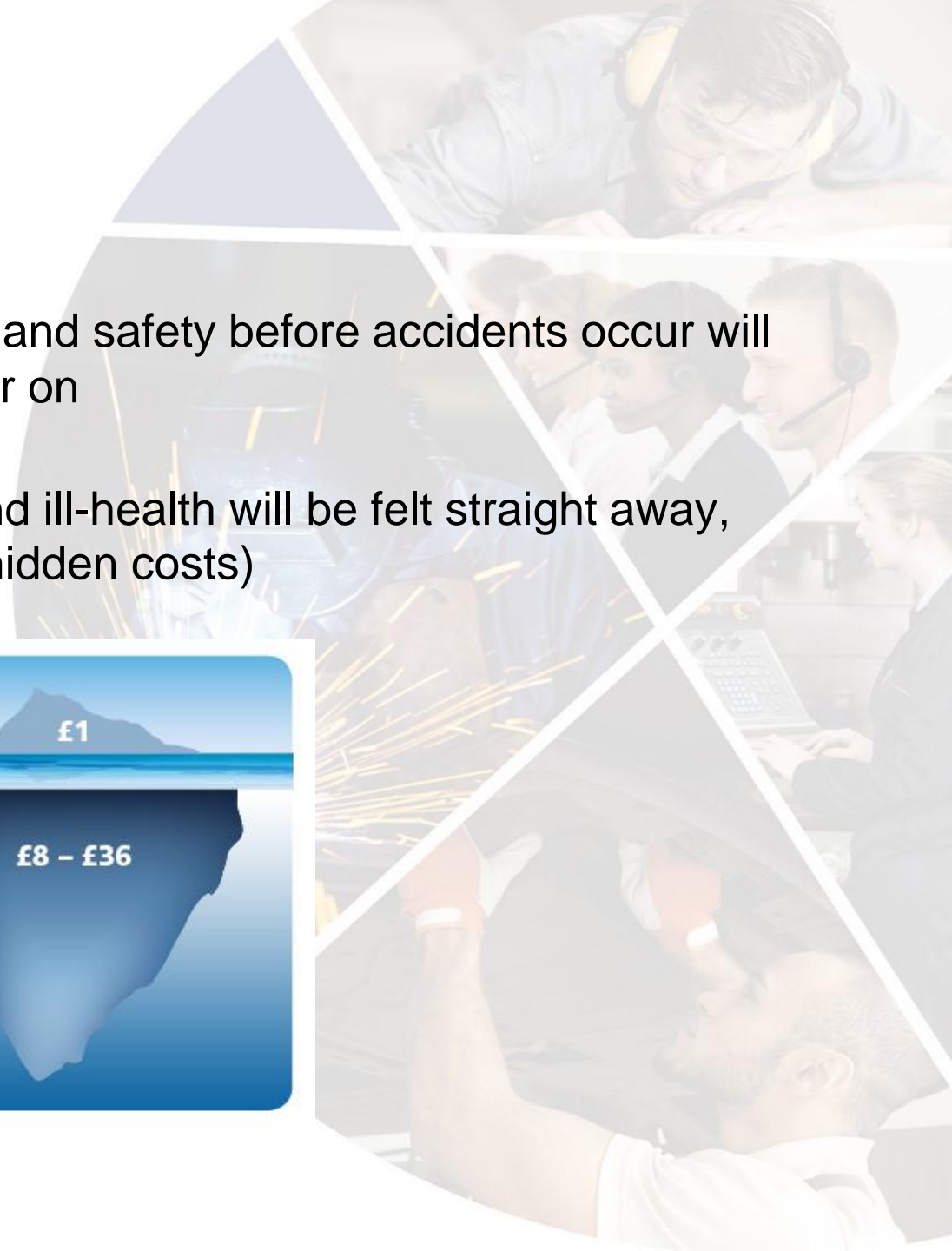
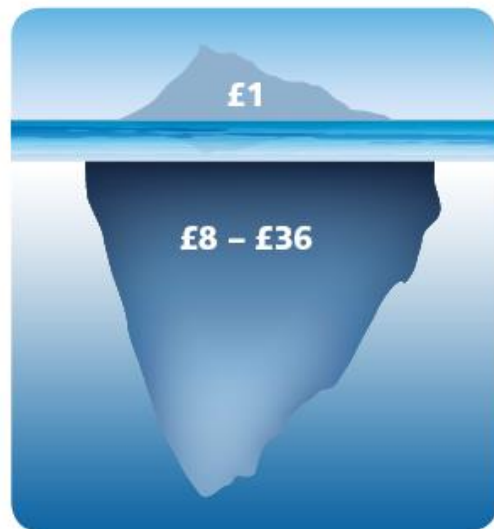
- could be fined;
- would receive bad publicity;
- individuals could go to prison.



The financial reasons

Spending money on health and safety before accidents occur will result in bigger savings later on

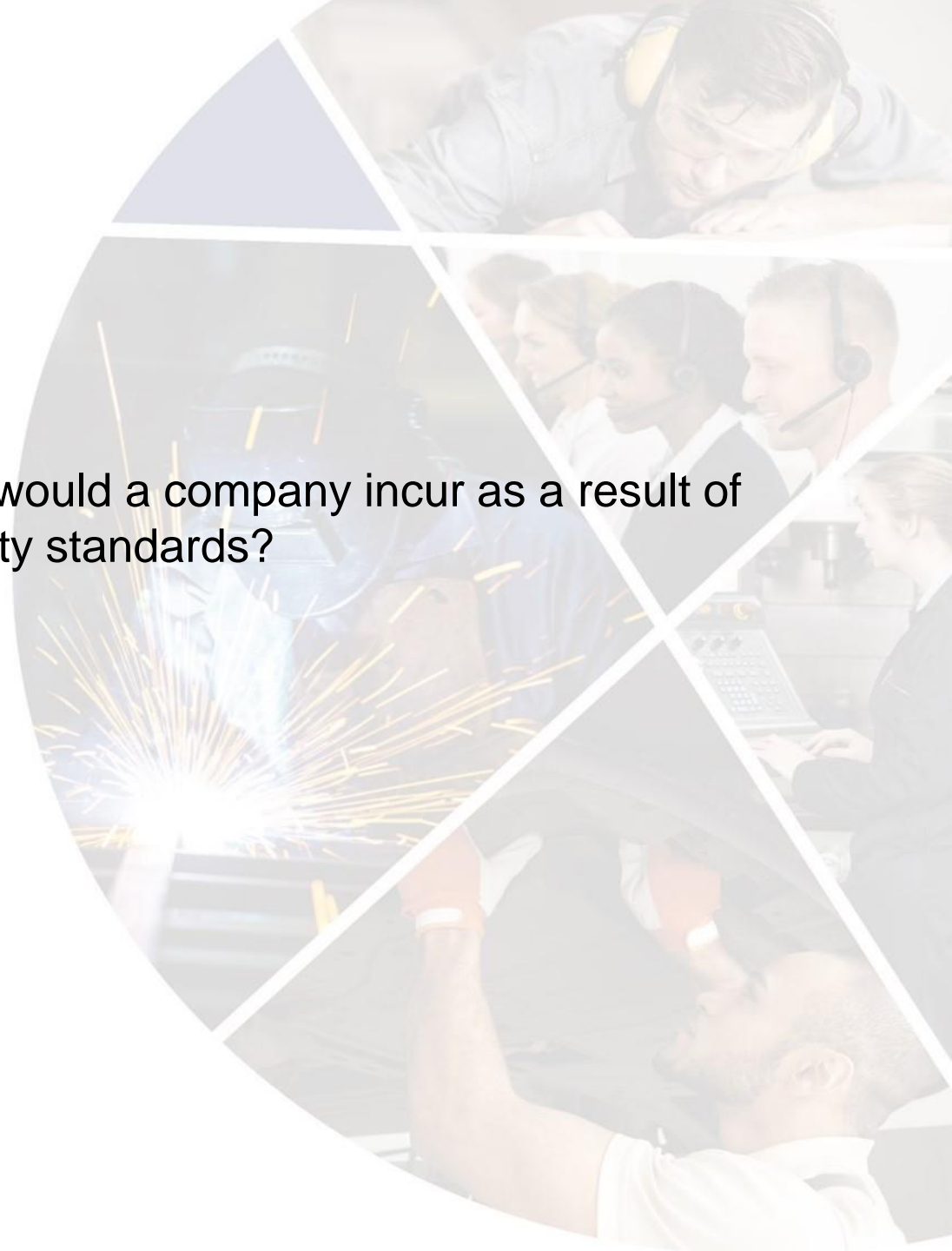
Some costs of accidents and ill-health will be felt straight away, others will be felt later on (hidden costs)





Activity

What sort of financial costs would a company incur as a result of having poor health and safety standards?





Example

An industrial incident occurred resulting in a large explosion

- 45 workers injured
- Extensive damage to process plant and equipment
- Costs of the incident estimated to be over £900 million
- Additional unquantifiable costs also significant



Summary

You should be able to:

- outline the scope and nature of workplace health and safety;
- identify the reasons for practicing good standards of health and safety;
- outline the role of workplace health, safety and fire law, the role of enforcement agencies and possible enforcement actions; and
- identify the key internal and external sources of health and safety information.