

# NEBOSH HSE Introduction to Incident Investigation





# Assessment criteria

- 1.1 Understand incident terminology, the moral, legal and financial arguments for investigations and management system requirements.
- 1.2 Recognise how human and organisational factors can contribute to an incident.
- 1.3 Outline the process for investigating incidents.
- 1.4 Outline positive strategies that can be adopted for interviews following incidents and the barriers to successful interview outcomes.
- 1.5 An introduction to advanced incident investigation techniques.



# Element 1: Introduction to incident investigation

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# Group discussion

Think about the impact an injury and time off work would have on you, your colleagues, your work activities and family. Note down what could be affected by your incapacity.





# Types of injury

## Major injuries

- head trauma;
- resulting injuries from falls from height;
- broken bones, including bones that are chipped or fractured;
- full dislocations of joints such as hip, shoulder, knee, spine or elbow; and
- blunt or penetrating trauma.





# Types of injury

## Minor injuries

- cuts;
- skin or eye irritation;
- persistent cough;
- burns that do not require skin grafting/surgery;
- sprains and strains, or ligament damage;
- whiplash-type injuries; and
- partial dislocations of joints.





# Near misses

Examples of **near misses** (where no injury or harm was caused) include:

- tripping over a trailing cable
- falling down a step;
- an unattended ladder slipping down a wall due to lack of securing; and
- falling over uneven ground.



# Dangerous occurrences

- **Dangerous occurrences** under UK legislation include:
  - a collapse or partial collapse of a scaffold over five metres tall
  - an overturn of any load-bearing part of lifting equipment
  - contact with overhead power lines
  - fire or explosion that closes a premises for more than 24 hours
  - accidental release of a flammable substance of certain quantities
- Property damage
  - not usually reportable under legislation
  - details should still be recorded



# Why do we investigate incidents?



- The primary reason is to **prevent recurrence**.
- If the **incident** is reportable, we need to ensure relevant information is gathered and passed on to the relevant regulatory authority.



# Legal, moral, and financial argument for investigations

Legal

Moral

Financial



# The legal argument



- Often no legal requirement to carry out incident investigations
- Carrying out '**suitable and sufficient**' risk assessment can be a legal requirement
  - incidents that are not investigated could indicate that risk assessments are not suitable and sufficient
- It is good practice to investigate even if there is no legal duty