

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

OUTCOMES OF AN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT IN AN OSHA ON-SITE CONSULTATION PROGRAM

This study was designed to determine the impact of providing a formal training and education program concerning the principles of occupational safety and health with an on-site consultation program. The training and education program was provided as part of the on-site consultation program at Colorado State University to a sample of small businesses along the Front Range in Colorado.

As the businesses entered the program, they were assigned to a control or experimental group. Businesses in the control group were provided with the usual consultation program consisting of on-site evaluation of the business facility for occupational safety and health hazards. The experimental group was provided with a training program in addition to the consultation program. The training program covered types of occupational health and safety hazards, methods of correcting or preventing these hazards, and resources for additional information concerning occupational safety and health.

The study revealed that the training program provided to the experimental group resulted in an increase in the knowledge level of the person in charge of occupational safety and health that was not found to occur in the control group ($P < .02$). In addition, both the experimental and control groups were found to show a significant reduction in the numbers of health and safety hazards present at their facilities ($P < .02$). This reduction was found to occur not only in the serious hazards that were required to be corrected by the consultation staff but also in the other-than-serious hazards which did not require correction. The number of hazards found at the businesses was found to remain at a low level for the one-year duration of the study.

The increase in knowledge, coupled with the decline in hazards, provides ample evidence that the on-site consultation program is an important part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's budget and should be expanded. It is quite possible that given a longer study and a larger sample size, even more effects attributable to the consultation program may have been found to be statistically significant.

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