

# SAFETY FOCUS

## SAFETY AND THE SUPERVISOR

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) instituted what is known as the general duty clause. The clause states that employers are responsible to provide a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to their employees.

**WHO:** The University of Utah Health and Safety policy (3-300) assigns safety responsibilities to Supervisors, Faculty, Principal Investigators, first line supervisors and all other persons in authority

Link: [Policy 3-300 University of Utah](#)

**WHAT:** The Health and Safety policy states individuals in these supervisory roles must:

- Provide safe and healthy environments for those areas and personnel for whom they have supervisory or administrative responsibility, incorporate health and safety issues as an integral part of all activities at the University
- Be continuously cognizant of the health and safety needs of all co-workers and employees for whom they are responsible
- Initiate and enforce necessary preventive measures to control hazards
- Ensure necessary support such as personal protective equipment, occupational medical examinations, local exhaust ventilation, etc. are in place
- Ensure employees are trained prior to beginning new tasks
- Report injuries and illnesses to Human Resources' Absence Management (Employee Health/Work Wellness Center for Hospitals & Clinics staff)
- Review accident and injury reports for their area(s)
- Serve as a focal point for health and safety concerns
- Immediately notify Environmental Health and Safety when they become aware of a violation of any University, local, state, of federal environmental health or occupational safety rule or regulation

- Immediately notify Environmental Health and Safety if contacted by local, state or federal occupational or environmental regulatory agencies

**WHY:** Workplace safety is very important for each and every employee because all workers desire to work in a safe and protected environment. It is important for the well-being of both employees and employers because human loss is immeasurable and intolerable. It is a moral responsibility and duty of employers to look after their employee's safety while on the job.

**HOW:** Training on supervisor safety responsibilities can be found here: [Safety and the Supervisor](#)

More information on roles and responsibilities can be found here: <https://safetycommittees.ehs.utah.edu/resources/documents/health-safety-roles-responsibilities.pdf>

Training on roles and responsibilities can be found here: <https://utah.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/2298/slide/19915>

