Incident Severity Analysis

Choose the right incidents for learning.

The Challenge

Are you able to effectively prioritise your time on serious potential events?

Research shows that one in five recordable incidents and near misses have serious or fatal outcome potential—regardless of the actual outcome severity.[1] Yet many organisations struggle to consistently classify their more serious incidents.

The result? Organisations spend a disproportionate amount of time 'deep-diving' into events that have little or no high-severity potential, while critical events with fatality potential fly under the radar.

This creates a primary focus on 'actual' events rather than 'potential' outcomes. Combined with KPIs and pressure around incident investigation, leaders spend more effort rapidly classifying and closing incidents than learning from high-severity potential events. This leads to inaccurate classifications and a higher level of unidentified and unaddressed risk for businesses.

45% of serious incidents fly under the radar*

29% of incidents attract unnecessary effort*

*Analysis of 2000+ incidents and near misses with corporate severity rating across multiple industry sectors 2019-2021.

The Solution

Sentis' *Incident Severity Analysis* equips leaders with more accurate data, enabling them to respond to, inquire about and provide precious resources to the high severity events that matter most.

Impartial and independent, the *Incident Severity Analysis* includes a review of incident data, including output from incident investigations. It tests and reports on the accuracy of corporate incident severity classification and breaks down that analysis by business division and/or operation. It also reports on the prevalence of high-severity potential events across certain high-risk activities,[2] allowing you to pinpoint key opportunities to improve safety outcomes.

We utilise a specific set of criteria for high-risk work contexts to analyse severity potential across all relevant operating situations, with incidents and near misses treated equally in determining the real potential for serious injury or fatality.

The analytical methodology that sits behind the analysis provides a consistent, accurate and repeatable process to determine which incidents should get attention from leaders and safety teams.

"Their work was excellent and their critical thinking helped inform health and safety priorities, including identifying opportunities to enhance our integration of work planning with critical risk management; strengthening our broader control and critical control assurance approach."

GM HSE Mining and Power Generation

Our Approach

Sentis' critical risk diagnostic products are designed to promote learning and inquiry. By determining areas for improvement and identifying what is most important for a client in terms of managing risk, we help set workers up for success. When it comes to incident analysis, the goal is to equip people in the field to reduce their exposure to events that could cause serious harm. Similarly, when it comes to critical risk, organisations need to assume that an unwanted event will likely happen if not adequately controlled. A positive focus on the effective implementation of critical controls enables the organisation to reduce risk as well as learn from how work is done and improve human reliability in high-risk work.

Choosing the right solution for your business	Incident Severity Analysis — Identification of incidents with serious or fatal potential	Meta Incident Analysis — Deep-dive analysis of incidents with serious or fatal potential
The organisation learns: • How to look at POTENTIAL severity more accurately • Where to more accurately focus scarce investigation resource and capability • Which high-risk work categories are most likely to be poorly controlled	●	●
Leaders learn: • Which critical risk controls are not working and whether they are 'enabled' • Where to strategically focus critical control verification • Where their people are most likely to make specific types of cognitive errors and why • Why workers feel they need to 'work around' critical procedures • What local operating contextual issues contribute to above • Which leadership and/or supervision behaviours need further development		●
Risk owners learn: • Which components of the safety management system need improvement • Which other system (blunt-end) factors perpetuate reliability issues at the front line		●
The safety function learns: • Where to focus incident management system improvement effort		●

The Outcome

Consistently and accurately identify which incidents get the closest attention from leaders and teams, and ensure that no high-risk events are overlooked and no time is wasted investigating events with little to no serious incident potential.

The *Incident Severity Analysis* will provide you with an understanding of the:

- incidents that are being misclassified and therefore receiving disproportionate attention
- types of high-severity potential incidents occurring within your organisation that are routinely flying under the radar
- frequency of high potential events within high-risk categories of work
- prevalence of high-severity potential events within the span of a work shift and over the period of analysis.[2]

This will support your organisation to improve the way you classify, respond to and investigate high-potential events, redirect the focus of your leaders and safety teams to the events that matter most, and educate your leaders and workers regarding the activities that are most likely to lead to a high potential event and how they can be adequately controlled to ensure everyone goes home safe at the end of the day.

1. 10-36% range; 21% average in 2015 study (Martin & Black, 2015) Preventing serious injuries and fatalities. Professional Safety, 60(9), 35-42.
2. In-shift analysis available when appropriate data is provided.

Ready to understand the true state of serious injury and fatality prevention in your business?

Get in touch with one of our expert consultants today

1300 653 042   **sentis.com.au**