Health and safety. When put together, these three words can instantly cause people to stop paying attention (so a big risk to put them at the start of this article, I know!). But if you run a business, getting your health and safety policy right is absolutely vital. Whatever sort of company you are in charge of, there is always a risk to someone's safety. These hazards can include anything from heavy loads that have to be manually handled, to working with dangerous machinery or an unclean environment.

As with many things in life, prevention is far better than the cure. Having the right policies and procedures in place can prevent so many accidents. The sad fact is that a huge proportion of them are entirely preventable. Despite all these measures, there are still hundreds of thousands of workplace accidents and injuries that occur every single year. And if your company has not put in place the proper measures, this can end up spelling big trouble.



Photo Credit

Principles of Health and Safety

Though protecting the health and wellbeing of your employees and clients is obviously important, it also makes good business sense to have a robust health and safety policy in place. Millions of working days are lost every year because of workplace injuries, as well as

work-related illnesses. Therefore, as a business owner, you should regard a good health and safety policy as one of your core goals.

With ever-changing rules and regulations, working out exactly what needs to be involved in your health and safety policy can be somewhat challenging. But there are a number of organisations out there like Ellis Whittam that can support you through this process. Though specific regulations change on a regular basis, the underlying principles are fairly straightforward.

A Clear Policy

The policy needs to set out how your organisation goes about preventing hazards, as well as the steps you will take if any should occur. Ultimately, this is all about how prepared your organisation is to react in times of crisis. As a business grows and develops, these preventative measures need to be organised, controlled, monitored and reviewed. As an employer, it is your responsibility to make sure all staff members are aware of the policy. There are also some that you will like to entrust with additional training such as first aid.

Identify Risk

There are a wide range of items in a modern workplace that could cause an element of risk. It may be that people are drinking fluids around certain electrical equipment. It may be that the office is often untidy so there is a chance of people tripping over. It could be that there are hazardous materials being used that call for commercial carpet cleaning. Identifying that these risks are present is the first step in preventing accidents from occurring. Next up will be a full assessment of these risks, showing that you have been thorough and are trying to consider the situation from every possible angle.