

September 2018

Safety Programs Can Further Management's Commitment to Safety and Offer Continuous Learning Opportunities

Providing safety programs may be beneficial for your railroad

After completing more than 55 Safety Culture Assessments, we have identified numerous opportunities for strengthening safety culture at short line and regional railroads. One opportunity for improving safety culture involves the implementation of safety programs. Such programs involve the creation of safety committees, the use of daily safety discussions between managers and employees and the utilization of briefings with crews that go beyond the standard job briefing. Implementing and consistently utilizing safety programs that focus on the actions of employees, putting safety at the forefront, could lead to sustainable safety practices and behaviors. Safety programs can have a positive impact throughout a railroad by opening communication across all departments. Having these programs in place may also provide an opportunity to foster communication about possible safety concerns that may be preventable with immediate action. Management's active participation in these programs is also beneficial as they can help to ensure the spread of specific safety messages company-wide, and can ensure that any feedback, discussions, or concerns are handled promptly.

Other safety programs can also include:

- Yard cleanup days
- Group field training activities or any other safety related activity
- Safety discussions surrounding seasonal hazards
- Safety tips relevant to specific territories
- Wellness programs

For more safety tips, please see our website, www.shortlinesafety.org