



DEKRA Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) Prevention™ Services: A Foundation for Sustainable SIF Exposure Control

Executive Summary

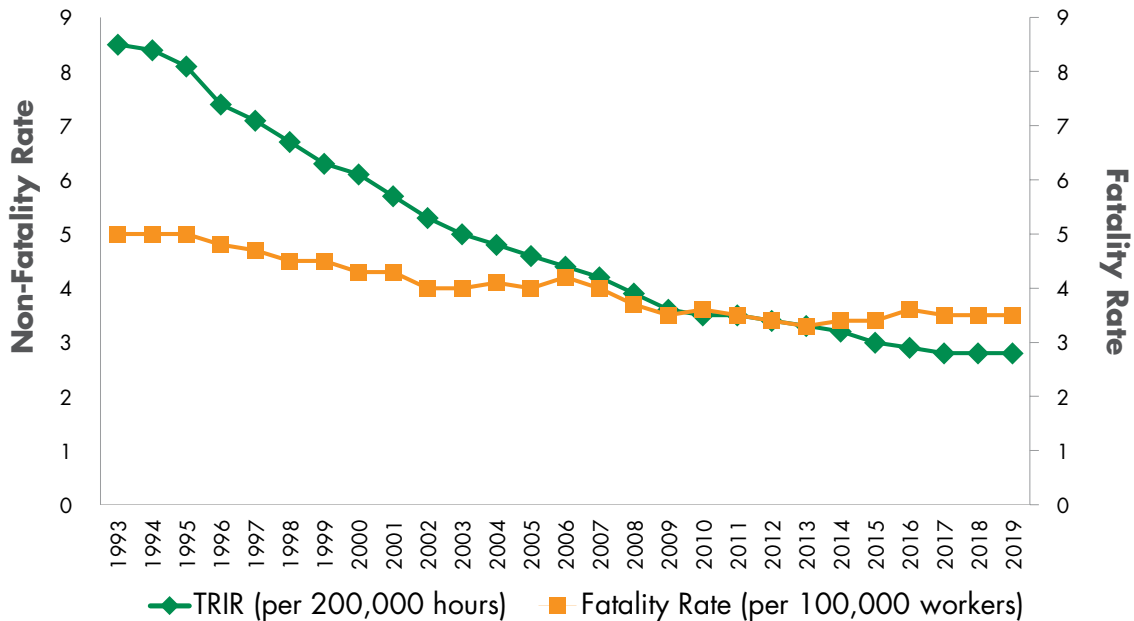
One of the challenges in addressing serious injury and fatality (SIF) incidents is that life-altering and fatal incidents rarely happen, which can cause leaders to lose a sense of vulnerability. When SIF incidents do occur, they can easily be labeled as an anomaly when they might be a sign of significant problems with the organization's culture or the design and implementation of its safety systems.

We have been at the forefront of the SIF prevention movement since its inception. Our extensive experience in this arena, combined with a continual improvement mindset, allows us to question paradigms around SIF prevention and continually adapt to offer the best solutions available.

DEKRA SIF Prevention Services™ give organizational leaders the knowledge and data necessary to govern SIF exposure, control efforts, and develop SIF recognition and mitigation skills at all levels. Because every organization is at a different level of safety maturity and has different SIF exposures, we scale and customize each SIF prevention plan.

When SIF incidents do occur, they can be seen as an anomaly instead of a sign of problems with the organization's underlying safety systems and culture.

The SIF Challenge



The SIF Paradox

Over the past 25 years, the rate of work-related fatalities in U.S. organizations has decreased at a slower rate than workplace injuries. Unfortunately, fatality rates in the U.S. remain flat. It was this information that triggered our initial groundbreaking research.

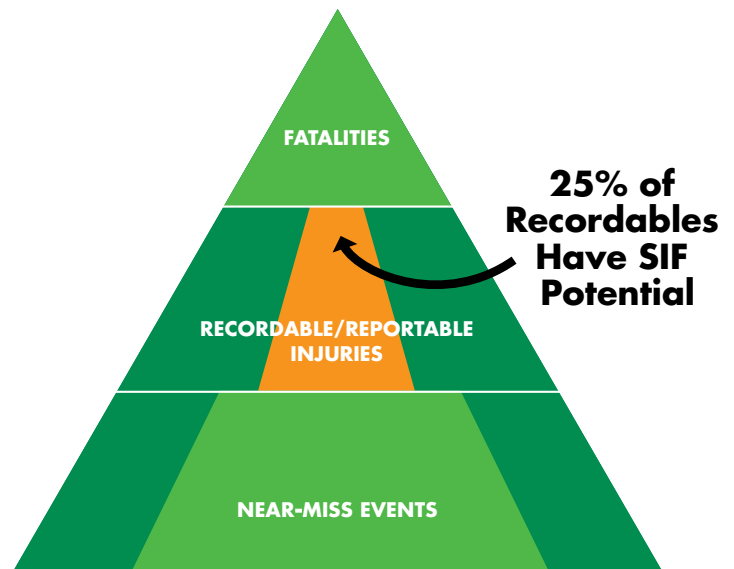
It is not unusual for us to find that an organization has recordable rates less than 1.0 yet continues to suffer life-altering and life-ending incidents. We have also found that about 25% of recordable incidents have SIF potential (SIFp). This means that a change in a single factor could lead to a more severe outcome. For most organizations, the percentage of SIFp within their near-miss pool will be much higher.

This happens because employees do not report when they nearly pulled a muscle or walked into a pole. In many organizations, these two types of exposure types, Ergonomics Risk Factors and Struck Against – Personal Contact, can contribute 25% to 50% of recordable incidents.

It is important to understand that SIFp exposures fall into two categories: scheduled and unscheduled. Scheduled exposures are planned. For example, in construction, the majority of SIFp exposures are scheduled. If an organization plans for people to work at height or move a load overhead, the intervention needs to focus on the quality of system implementation and verification. However, in a production

facility with equipment reliability issues, the percentage of unscheduled SIF exposures can be quite high. The date and time of the equipment jam or breakdown is not known. An employee deciding to control the exposure is, therefore, dependent more on culture than systems.

Most organizations will have a mix of scheduled and unscheduled exposures, so understanding the ratio is crucial for developing the right strategy.



The DEKRA SIF Prevention Model

Successfully managing SIF exposure and lowering SIF events requires not only event learning but also a focus on prevention and working proactively across the organization in a structured and consistent manner.

A good start involves:

- knowing your organization’s SIF Exposure Profile;
- educating all personnel in SIF prevention concepts, as well as SIF hazard and exposure identification and control; and
- developing SIF exposure risk management plans.

To sustain efforts, management commitment is required, as demonstrated through solid governance, verification activities, and employee participation in Exposure Reduction Teams (ERTs).

DEKRA’s holistic and sustainable model involves the balance of three components:

- The responsive approach, which is taken after an incident using DEKRA’s [SIF Potential Indicator](#). This tool reduces subjectivity, simplifies the process of identifying SIFp at point of entry, incorporates teamwork, and adds human performance reliability solutions.
- The proactive approach, which focuses heavily on aligning systems and takes into account scheduled versus unscheduled SIF exposures.
- A focus on governance, as well as the creation of ERTs, which identify exposure and assess effectiveness of the SIF exposure controls.

SIF Prevention Model



SIF Exposure Profile and Readiness Assessment

To make progress in preventing SIFs, leadership must understand the types and frequencies of SIF exposures and the organization's readiness to implement the SIF prevention program. Both can be accomplished with a Readiness Assessment.

In Step 1, we start the assessment with data. Our consultant and data team analyze incident data to develop a SIF Exposure Profile.

Along with data analysis and incident investigation review, our consultant performs a targeted safety-management system review of the following:

- Metrics
- Observation systems
- Governance processes
- SIF exposures and risk management plans
- Pre-task risk assessments

To create the right metrics and mix of appropriate solutions, a DEKRA consultant works with the client project team to:

- Verify the SIF Exposure Profile
- Analyze the strength of corrective and preventive actions
- Introduce an expert exposure classification scheme to accurately evaluate incidents and near misses for SIFp
- Introduce a Field Verification of Critical Controls (FVCC) process

Once the team has a good level of understanding of the exposure profile, it visits selected sites to field-test the FVCC checklists. During the site visits, the team will also focus on the site readiness for a SIF implementation. Specifically, the project team will assess the strength of the site governance, site leadership's commitment to reduce SIF exposure, and site-engagement strategies (e.g., pre-task risk assessments, job safety briefings, and site observations).

Once the field visits are complete, the consultant and project team prepare a report with findings and recommendations for implementation.

Implementing Solutions that Improve SIF Performance and Reduce SIFp Exposure

Now the organization has a good understanding of its SIF Exposure Profile, as well as the specific SIF prevention strategies required.

Step 2 of the process involves implementing the suggested recommendations from Step 1. While the recommendations will vary based on the findings and client readiness, participation is critical for any company to succeed in the safety arena.

One of the main components of DEKRA SIF Prevention Services is the incorporation of site-level ERTs. This important initiative ensures full visibility into SIF prevention and makes it a team sport. The consultant works with the organization to incorporate, charter, and launch effective ERTs. With governance and ERTs fully implemented, multiple levels are engaged, from the top of the organization to the working interface.

FVCC checklists are developed in the early stages of the Readiness Assessment and are validated through the site-readiness visits. This gives site-level ERTs and all personnel a framework in which to examine and mitigate the top SIFp exposures. Training employees in the use of these checklists is critical in exposure control.

Our exposure identification system enables organizations to conduct immediate SIFp classification. It reduces subjectivity and simplifies the process of identifying SIFp. It also incorporates the concept of scheduled versus unscheduled exposures. Experience tells us that many SIF events occur when problems surface during unscheduled or unplanned events.

Along with these critical pieces of the program, the recommendations may include a combination of other intervention targets, such as:

- Governance
- Leadership development
- Employee engagement
- Risk management plans
- Incident investigation
- Human performance reliability

A Focus On Governance

For SIF prevention to be successful, senior leadership teams must understand and sponsor a SIF prevention program, such as DEKRA's SIF Prevention Services.

The overall goal is improved decision-making. We believe that governance is the foundation for all successful safety programs, and we have vast experience in helping organizations install or improve this critically important function.

Therefore, the readiness assessment will include a review of the safety governance program and an assessment of the organization's ability to manage SIF prevention through the current governance. While most companies have an overall governance structure, many times, safety governance needs improvement or may not exist. Effective safety governance enables the organization to ensure communication and accountability in the implementation of policies and initiatives, while aligning around the most crucial safety measures and activities.

Realizing and Continuing Success

No organization can be confident about safety unless it has done all it can to identify and control SIFs. With a comprehensive and sustainable model, DEKRA SIF Prevention Services represent the best defense for the future.

Interested in learning how your organization can mitigate SIF incidents? Connect with us:

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