

How long will the pain go on?

If there is a serious harm accident at work there is going to be pain. But, who for? And how much pain does there have to be? And how long before it stops?

I know a guy who cut off two fingers 25 years ago. Aside from three days in hospital, six weeks off work, and a year before he had the nerve to use a "buzzer" again, the only pain he feels now from the accident comes when he accidentally bumps the stumps of his fingers, or gets them chilled on a frosty morning. Not too bad, you say!

However, a lot of serious harm accidents don't result in such light consequences. In many cases, the pain of the accident can go on a long time after the physical injuries have healed, and affect a lot more people than just the person who was taken away in the ambulance.

Consider the possibility of a serious harm accident at your worksite.

You hear the scream and the crash of the accident. You rush around the corner, and see the apprentice lying on the ground, bleeding. You have no idea how seriously he's hurt. You call the ambulance, and he's taken away to hospital. You ask yourself, "What do I do now?"

How you answer that question will have a direct impact on when the pain stops.... for you!

You see, because it's a serious harm accident, the Department of Labour will be investigating. If you are considered



to be the "person in control of the worksite", you will be a central figure in that investigation. Even if you are not the "person in control of the worksite" you will still be interviewed during the investigation.

You will be asked if you took "all practicable steps" to care for the safety of that young apprentice. Will you have the right answers? Will they be good enough?

The investigator will go away to deliberate. The deliberation may take months. What will the investigator be deciding? Whether or not to prosecute!

How will you feel while you are waiting for the decision from the Department of Labour? That will depend on how well you were prepared before the accident.

If you had a working Health & Safety system in place, at the time of the accident, that gave clear evidence of the "practicable steps" you take in caring for the safety of yourself and others at work, you will probably sleep easier.

If there was no current, working Health & Safety system in place, the pain will probably go on.

Physical pain from a workplace accident is bad enough. Mental and emotional pain following a workplace accident can destroy relationships and businesses.

Using the HazardCo Health & Safety system can be a great help in stopping the pain from going on too long!

Call us, and we'll tell you how.

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