Chapter 6 – IFPO - CPO

Occupational Health, Industrial Hazards, Vulnerability Assessment and Self-Assessment

Potential Hazards and Risks

Some of the main occupational risks to protection officers are as follow:

- Psychological stress and burnout.
- Serious bodily injury through acts of crime or violence.
- Exposure to the hazards of extreme weather or solar radiation.
- Exposure to all hazards found on the worksite.

Vulnerability Assessment

- A *vulnerability assessment* is a thorough, comprehensive and ongoing evaluation of conditions that may create a weakness in the security or safety of the facility.
- Whenever a security professional is conducting patrols or performing other duties of the post, he/she is capable of observing and assessing the workplace environment.

Whole Hazards Approach

- *Whole hazards* means that the security professional is not focused solely on crime or mechanical hazards. ALL THINGS should be considered if there is a realistic potential that the condition could result in a loss.
- When conducting a vulnerability assessment, the *Whole Hazards* approach must be taken.

Vulnerability Assessment

- Human life should always be given the most important consideration.
- Secondary to human life, a security professional should pay attention to conditions that could impact the operation of the facility.
- The *Whole Hazards* approach seeks to identify the negative things that can occur to the key assets as well as the likelihood that those events will occur.

Self-Assessment

When viewing the facility from a crime prevention angle, security professional should ask themselves; “What are some of the things a thief might want to steal from this facility? What are places I could hide if I were a burglar? If I wanted to sabotage this operation, what target would I choose?”

Self-Assessment

When viewing the facility from the broader *Whole Hazards* vantage point, the questions a security professional should ask are elemental:

- Where are the fire alarms and emergency exists?
- Is there emergency lighting if the power goes off?
- Do I know how to shut off the water supply if a pipe bursts?
- Can I get locked inside any rooms?
- Who do I call if a machine malfunctions?
- What labs should I avoid because of the chemicals?
- Where is it dangerous for me to walk?

Self-Assessment

An important aspect of the self-assessment must be for the security professional to recognize what hazards exist by virtue of the officer's presence in the facility:

- Rooftop patrols.
- Climbing scaffolding.
- Improper monitoring by command center.
- Lack of training regarding weak spots on walkways or paths.
- Traversing through active production areas or maintenance activity.
- Vulnerabilities from torches, demolition, or vehicles.
- Overhead hazards such as ventilating gases or falling pipes.
- Unnecessary patrols through areas not requiring presence.

Self-Assessment

Some generic suggestions for minimizing hazards and threats:

- Use caution when approaching partially open doors.
- Turn off coffee pots/appliances when not in use.
- Always use a handrail when ascending or descending stairs.
- Be careful of stairs, catwalks and scaffolding.
- Avoid confined spaces.
- Be familiar with hazardous materials areas.
- If it can be avoided, never walk through any liquid.

Self-Protection

Fitness for duty

- Personal physical and mental ability
- Requires stamina
- Walking beats can burn calories
- Eat wisely
  - Fruits
  - Water
  - Electrolyte drinks

Patrol duties may involve substantial walking throughout the duration of a shift. Footwear is vital to protection

- Steel toe boots
- Protect against falling objects
- Avoid Tennis Shoes

Occupational Accident

An occupational accident is described as an unexpected event where physical contact is made between a worker and some object or exposure to a substance that results in the interruption of work.

Key Factors in Occupational Accidents

Personal Factors:

- Inadequate capability
- Lack of knowledge/skill
- Improper motivation
- Stress

Job Factors :

- Inadequate leadership or supervision
- Inadequate engineering
- Inadequate purchasing
- Inadequate maintenance
- Inadequate work standards/procedures
- Inadequate hazard controls

Lack of Management Control Factors

- Inadequate program
- Inadequate program standards
- Inadequate compliance with standards
- Inadequate hazard controls