



## **Eye on Safety | SIF Exposures: Understanding Employee Safety Risks**

SIF, which stands for Serious Injury or Fatality, is a term that refers to incidents or accidents resulting in severe harm or death. Serious injuries or illnesses can also be life-altering, leaving the worker impaired or without the use of an internal organ, body function, or body part. The Secretary's Office of Safety ensures employee safety and reduces SIF exposures within KYTC.

Failing to recognize a workplace hazard or risk is one of the reasons SIFs occur. Another reason is that some employers rely on workers as the last or one of the only defenses against serious hazards. The biggest reason SIFs occur is the failure to identify and address human and organizational performance factors. Even the most experienced people make mistakes, and these mistakes are often a result of the circumstances that were in place before the SIF occurred.

KYTC recognizes the importance of protecting its employees and takes proactive measures to mitigate these risks. These measures include:

**Comprehensive training programs** - employees receive specialized training that equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and manage potential hazards.

**Robust safety protocols and guidelines** - these include strict adherence to safety regulations, regular safety inspections of worksites, and implementing engineering controls to minimize risks.

**Fostering a culture of safety** - by promoting open communication channels where employees can raise safety concerns, suggest improvements, and participate in safety committees. By involving employees in safety-related decision-making processes, KYTC ensures that their perspectives and experiences are considered.

The Secretary's Office of Safety plays a crucial role in mitigating SIF exposures within the state through our commitment to employee safety and our comprehensive approach to managing transportation infrastructure.