



SAFETY ^{IN} PARADISE

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

FREE

SAFETY & HEALTH CONSULTATION SERVICES FOR VIRGIN ISLANDS BUSINESSES



UVICELL



WHAT IS SAFETY IN PARADISE?

U. S. Virgin Islands small businesses have access to a great resource to help them comply with OSHA regulations and to ensure that their employees are working in safe and healthful conditions. Safety In Paradise (SIP) is a free and confidential service provided by the University of the Virgin Islands Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (UVICELL). Funded primarily through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Safety In Paradise (SIP) is a completely separate service from OSHA enforcement. Consultants will not issue citations or pose penalties for violations of OSHA standards.



Safety In Paradise (SIP) offers free safety and health consultation services to any small business located in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our primary goal is to reduce the number of hazards in Virgin Islands workplaces. At the invitation of the employer, we begin the process by evaluating the working environment to identify hazards. We then help each employer implement solutions to the identified problems. If it is simply a matter of figuring out a set of options to control a specific hazard, we can do that. When safety training is needed, we can help design and deliver it. If you need a written safety program, or you want a comprehensive Safety and Health Management System, we can help you design it. Best of all, the service is free and confidential.





OUR SERVICES:

- Are free and confidential.
- Include walk-through surveys to assure compliance status with OSHA's safety and health regulations.
- Include development and/or evaluation of technical programs such as lockout/tagout, confined space entry, hazard communication, fall prevention, hearing conservation, injury and illness recordkeeping (aka OSHA 300 logs), respiratory protection programs, and more.
- Include assistance with the design and implementation of Safety and Health Management Systems.
- Include performance of air sampling to test levels of various contaminants such as dusts, mists, vapors, and gases.
- Include measurement of noise levels to evaluate employees' noise exposure.
- Include various types of safety and health training for management and employees.



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WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any company in the private sector is eligible. We focus on small employers (500 or less) in high hazard industries, but we will work with any private employer who wants to achieve a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. Our services are customized to address the hazards found in each type of workplace. Our services have been requested and utilized from customers within industries such as:

- Hotel and Tourism
- Medical and Dental Offices
- Retail Establishments
- Construction
- Telecommunications
- Banking and Insurance

Although any small, high-hazard business will be our main priority, our Safety In Paradise consultants are qualified to assist a variety of other industries. Call us for more information--we look forward to helping you meet your safety and health needs today!





S.H.A.R.P.

There are many benefits to becoming a SHARP participant to include:

Businesses that attain Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) status are among an elite group that demonstrate their dedication to maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for their employees. SHARP participants are formally recognized by the state/OSHA with a SHARP certificate and listed on the national OSHA website. Employers that are accepted into SHARP may receive exemption from OSHA programmed inspections for up to 2 years. *(Note: Participation in SHARP does not exempt employers from investigations of incidents triggered by complaints, accidents or other significant events).*

- Providing protection for workers.
- Boosting worker morale and improving communication among workers and management.
- Improving worker productivity (ex. through reduction of employee days away from work due to work-related injuries/illnesses).
- Attracting skillful workers looking to join a business concerned about providing a safe and healthy workplace.
- Saving money as a result of reduction in injuries and lower worker compensation insurance premiums.

Employers can voluntarily request a consultation visit to improve the safety and health of their workplace. These visits are free of charge and confidential. The employer's only obligation is to correct any "serious" issues discovered by the consultant within a reasonable time frame.



THE CONSULTATION VISIT

- Request for services. Private sector employers will have to submit a consultation visit request form to the Safety In Paradise office. Employers will set a date for a visit that is convenient to both the employer and consultant.
- Initial meeting. When the consultant arrives at the worksite for the scheduled visit, the consultant conducts an opening conference with the employer and employee representative(s). During the opening conference key items are discussed to include: (1) the role of the consultant(s), (2) the obligations of the employer and (3) how the walk-through will be conducted.
- Walk-through. The employer, employee representative(s) and the consultant conduct the walk-through together to examine conditions in the workplace and evaluate potential hazards, physical work practices and the employer's safety and health management programs (if developed). The employer may

choose to restrict the walk-through to specific areas of concern and may elect to stop the walk-through at any time.

- Closing Conference and Follow-up. At the end of the walk-through, the consultant reviews the findings with the employer and employee representative(s). The employer will learn of the safety and health issues that need to be addressed as well as what they are currently doing correctly in this area. The employer will receive a written report detailing the findings to include any hazards (if found) to be corrected within a determined timeframe.
- Correcting Hazards. When a "serious" hazard has been identified, the consultant will assist the employer to develop a plan of action to correct the hazard within a reasonable time frame. In the rare instances where an "imminent danger" situation is found during the walk-through, the employer must take immediate action to protect workers.





WHY SHOULD YOU CALL US?

We can offer technical expertise in safety and health that your own staff most likely does not have. Taking a proactive approach to safety will lower the likelihood of citations and fines if OSHA enforcement visits your business. Most importantly, you can establish a safe and healthy work environment for your employees. This can reduce the time lost from injuries and lower your worker's compensation costs. In addition, improved safety and health will increase employee morale within your workplace.

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