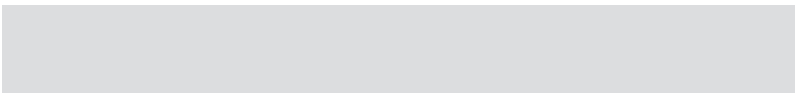


How to Maximize the Value of Safety Software



Software Is Key to a Sound Safety Program

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Your Return on Safety Investment

A sound safety program driven by software can help companies fulfill obligations to their employees while adding value to the organization and cutting costs related to safety.

When you think of return on investment (ROI), you probably envision some measurable form of monetary return that helps to justify that investment. But with an investment in safety software, measuring that ROI can be somewhat complex.

Using software for your environmental, health and safety (EHS) operations goes beyond helping you stay organized and adding convenience to your job. Your software often serves to prevent safety-related incidents from occurring, which means you won't always know that the software is fulfilling that purpose.

This eBook will cover the safety and financial benefits your company receives as a result of using safety software, along with different suggestions on how you can measure the ROI and maximize the value of your software investment.



The Benefits of Safety Software

When you first invest in software, the potential benefits it will provide should be a top priority. Establishing and maintaining a safe workplace for everyone ultimately contributes to your company's success, so it's crucial you understand exactly how to utilize your software to achieve a safer work environment. While modern software can vary greatly on usability and special features, several of them seem to offer many of the same safety benefits.

Safety and Risk Management

Using software to generate and use data can help you establish where common injuries, such as slips, trips, and falls, are most likely to occur. Knowing these locations could help you to implement measures to prevent or eliminate hazards in these areas.

Compliance Obligations

EHS personnel and processes are relied upon to help the organization remain compliant, including maintaining proper documentation.

Your software can help you track and monitor key records to ensure regulatory requirements—like OSHA, WCB, RIDDOR and MSHA—are met, along with helping employees understand the compliance rules set forth that they will be held accountable for. You can also set compliance schedules and reminders to ensure each standard is being met on time. This can help eliminate potential missed deadlines or oversight on key obligations.

Near Miss Reports

It's a good idea to report near misses because it gives you and your company an opportunity to examine potential threats and take care of them accordingly. Even if no injury occurred and all forms of disaster were averted, you should still understand that the outcome could have been different. Near miss reporting, as part of the incident management component, can help guide you in finding a solution to ensure you can avoid incidents in the future.

Safety Culture

Safety is everyone's responsibility. By getting every employee involved in using software, you are putting accountability directly into their hands. Keeping employees engaged and hands-on in these practices can help foster your company's safety culture.

In addition, maintaining an active workplace safety culture can help improve employee morale. This shows that the employer is willing to help keep all employees safe. High morale has been known to help reduce costly turnover and absenteeism, while providing a general boost in worker satisfaction.

Employee Training and Development

Using safety training software isn't just for managers and supervisors. Depending on your unique business needs, you may find that it provides direct safety benefits to every employee. Software as an on-the-job resource can help employees find answers to their own questions, log important details regarding their work, and receive direct training on specific job elements. It's also an opportunity for employees to see and understand the benefits associated with safety practices and procedures, rather than feeling like some measures are overly cautious or simply not necessary. Plus, various training key performance indicators can be used to easily analyze how many employees are compliant with various regulatory requirements.

Best Practices Build Safety Culture, Which Provides Many Benefits



Management
Commitment



Hazard
Awareness



Employee
Engagement



Increased
Accountability



Safety Culture

Improved
Morale



Lower
Costs



Higher
Productivity



Reduced
Risks





The Financial Gains of Safety Software

To assign a value to the direct savings from a complete safety solution, ROI should be calculated. Safety is a core component of strategic business management, and purchasing software to streamline business processes related to safety should be viewed as a smart investment. You might participate in some of the following activities to properly calculate ROI for your business:

- Gather the number of employees who work on producing reports for OSHA, EPA, clients and other constituents such as these.
- Determine the average percentage of work time spent entering data, consolidating data, producing reports, sharing reports, and looking through old data and figures.
- Consider the average salary of safety professionals allocated to doing the work described above. When an automated solution is in place, employees can spend time on valuable work outside of data management.

- Optionally, consider the benefits of having better visibility into your safety data. Remember to consider lower incident-related costs, and the commercial benefit value of having lower incident rates or being able to achieve certain industry certifications.

The financial gains associated with a robust software are not always easy to measure since most of the monetary ROI comes from preventing likely incidents. Rather, you should observe the possibilities of financial ROI your software is responsible for:

Reduction in Lost Time

Workers' compensation cases can cause a multitude of problems and expenses. The company's workplace insurance could rise. The employee could sustain injuries that put them out of work for weeks or months. The company must pay the injured worker's salary and medical expenses. Production could slow due to having to fix issues to prevent future injuries, as well as from not having a full staff on board.

These costs are far from minor expenses, even from just one workers' compensation claim. Using software to help monitor safety activities can help reduce potential workers' compensation situations to ensure safety procedures are being adhered to. In addition, the software can run reports to provide a comparison of workers' compensation expenses over the years that could indicate how much money the software has saved your company by preventing such situations.

Fewer Injuries

Not all injuries result in lost time. When implemented correctly, safety software should help you to reduce the overall number of workplace injuries. Considering the training and reporting benefits that it delivers, you can assume your software investment has directly influenced a reduction in work-related injuries if you see a decrease in reported injuries after implementation.

Fewer Accident Reports

Regardless of whether a situation results in an injury or workers' compensation case or no injury at all, accidents should be reported.

If you notice a decline in accident reports after having implemented a solution into your procedures, you could assume the investment has been a smart choice.

Cut in Payroll Expenses

Think about how much time employees spend on creating reports concerning the above information. Consider how much time it takes you and your employees to find certain information regarding compliance, OSHA standards, or internal data. Calculate how much time it takes to manually log accident reports, figures, test results, training modules, checklists, and other data into your reporting system.

It might not seem like much time when you are doing those activities. But when you multiply that time by the number of employees doing those activities, it adds up to a lot of payroll expenses that could otherwise be eliminated or repurposed into other activities.



Safety software, especially when used on mobile devices, can help you log and report activity in real time, generate reports within seconds, and house all the information you need in a single interface. Automation of some of these activities means that employees can step away from heavy data management and refocus their time and energy on other valuable tasks.

It's important to realize that you might not be able to calculate an exact dollar figure when determining your ROI. Rather, you should examine overall organizational and safety trends to get a good idea as to how much money your software has saved your company.

Forrester, a tech research firm, notes that software-as-a-service (SaaS) enables fast deployment, better user adoption, and reduced IT support needs.¹ Figure 1 below shows the advantages of SaaS tools compared to on-premise.

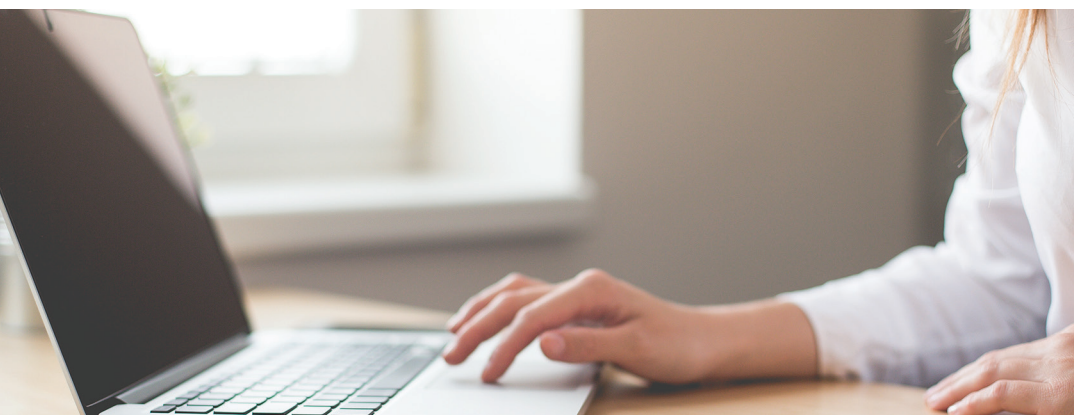
Safety software should be considered a strategic investment in both time and monetary resources. A sound safety program driven by software can help departments fulfill obligations to their employees while adding value to the organization and cutting costs related to safety. And, like all investments, there should be an expectation of an ROI to justify these extra expenses.

Figure 1 - Key Benefits of Software-as-a-Service

Dimension	Software-as-a-Service helps by...
Reduced cost of adoption	Reducing the licensing, training, and support costs of adding additional users.
Quicker adoption	Decreasing the time to ramp up new users, maximizing their productivity.
Improved adoption	Enabling more users to use the application.
On-premise cost avoidance	Eliminating maintenance costs, and reducing full-time help desk and server support costs.
Improved flexibility	Reducing spend on excess capacity.

1. Herbert, L., Erickson, J., Ross, C., Parker, A. and Karcher, P. (2017). The ROI Of Software-As-A-Service. [online] Forrester.com.

Available at: <https://www.forrester.com/report/The+ROI+Of+SoftwareAsAService/-/E-RES53885>.



Maximize the Value of Safety Software

Your entire safety program exists to maintain a safe work environment that protects employees from potential dangers and, in turn, protecting the company from expenses associated with those dangers. Deciding to implement software to help facilitate those efforts should serve to increase your efficiency in meeting health and safety standards and goals.

However, this boost in efficiency can only be expected when you choose the right software to help facilitate your safety program. Selecting such a tool that does not meet your specific needs (regardless of how perfect a solution it is for other companies) can impede your practices and waste valuable resources.

If you find that your current software is no longer keeping up with your business growth, or if you decide your company could benefit from implementing software for the first time, you should define your goals before to begin to explore your options.

This will help you stay focused on what you specifically need rather than solutions that look good but don't fit into your strategy.

When shopping around for a new system, ask yourself the following questions to determine your needs:

- Who will use the software?
- Who will be responsible for maintaining the software?
- How long will the software take to implement?
- What kind of tracking or reporting features does the software offer?
- Is the software within our budget?
- Does the software help make work easier, or is it more time-consuming than the way we currently operate?

Safety software makes it easy to monitor, measure, audit, and review nearly anything related to your occupational health and safety management program.

Use Tracking and Data Tools to Measure the Performance of Your Safety Department

Software helps you work smarter, not harder. Make sure you take advantage of its reporting and tracking features to cut some manual labor and research time. Tracking and monitoring activity directly in the software eliminates the guesswork of whether you are maintaining compliance, if deadlines are being met, if employees are following proper procedures, and if you are meeting goals for lowering injuries and accidents in the workplace.

Opt for a Mobile Solution

Taking your safety strategy mobile can help you conduct business in real time without the need for clipboards, paperwork, handwritten notes, and transcribing those notes to another system manually. A modern software solution will offer an application you can download to your smart phone or tablet that allows you to report, log, analyze, or research whenever you need to. This mobility helps to eliminate time spent on double entry, as well as provides you with answers in the field as soon as you need them.

Invest in Training and Onboarding for Employees

Your software won't live up to its full potential if employees don't know how to use it properly, or why they need to use it in the first place. If you are implementing new software, teaching employees about finding information, and the use of each feature should be considered as part of your deployment plan. In addition, you should also share the reasons why it's important they use the software in their daily operations, including the resulting consequences of not using it correctly. If you are making a change to your existing software, it's important to let employees know about the transition ahead of time, as well as a valid reason for making the change. Oftentimes employees can adopt a negative mindset to change, but you can help shift the negativity by building up the positives the new software will provide.



Final Comments

In the end, your software is only as good as the information that was reported, and helping employees learn to understand the system can help ensure accurate, timely reporting to boost its overall effectiveness.

Keep in mind that failures in your safety operations, such as accidents, injuries, and non-compliance, can prove costly in financial, time, and human resources. Safety is everyone's responsibility and should be closely monitored.

Accidents, injuries, workers' compensation claims, non-compliance, and other potential crises affect the whole company, not just the people directly involved in these occurrences. It's crucial that, no matter which safety software you use, you should implement it to the best of its ability to reduce occurrences of safety incidents.

Whether you plan to improve the way you manage audits and inspections, incidents, safety training, or compliance, software can help your team adopt a responsible attitude so safety becomes ingrained in your workplace culture. Learn how by following the link below.

www.ehsinsight.com



About EHS Insight

EHS Insight is the world's most flexible, powerful, easy to use environmental, health and safety software. Since 2009, the team at EHS Insight have been on a mission to make the world a better place. Today, more than a hundred thousand users in more than 45 countries rely on EHS Insight software, services and support to transform the way they work and to lower the environmental impact of their operations. EHS Insight is software for improving EHS performance by managing risk and increasing efficiency. An effective management system is necessary to prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace and severe impacts to the environment. It's important. It's the right thing to do. EHS Insight makes it easier.



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