

US Survey: One-Third of Workers Say Employers Put Productivity Before Safety



Do you think your employer prioritizes productivity over workplace safety?

The [National Safety Council](#) asked this question to 2,000 employees in an employer perception survey. It recently released the [results](#), which found that 33% of the employees surveyed across the US believe safety takes a back seat to productivity at their organizations.

More disturbing is the fact that this percentage was even higher among employees in high-risk industries: 60% of respondents in the construction industry and 52% of those working in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting felt safety was less of a priority than finishing tasks. And those industries are first and second when it comes to the number of occupational deaths each year in the US.

Other key survey findings include:

- 49% of temporary and contract workers, and 41% of employees working in healthcare settings said they were afraid to report safety issues
- 62% of construction workers and those in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting believe management does only the minimum required by law to keep employees safe
- 61% of employees in the agriculture, forestry, fishing

and hunting industry say there's resistance to working safely among employees.

On a more encouraging note, 70% of employees did say that safety training is part of their [orientation](#), and that employee health and well-being is promoted at work. (The full survey results and methodology are available [here](#).)

If management in your company *does* prioritize productivity over safety, that approach is counterproductive as studies have found that [putting productivity ahead of safety actually hurts the bottom line](#). And [another study](#) found that a strong safety culture actually improves a company's financial performance.