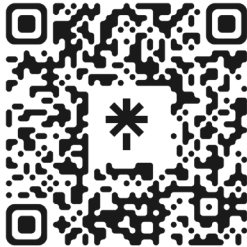


RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL
WORKERS UNION COUNCIL

SCAN FOR APP

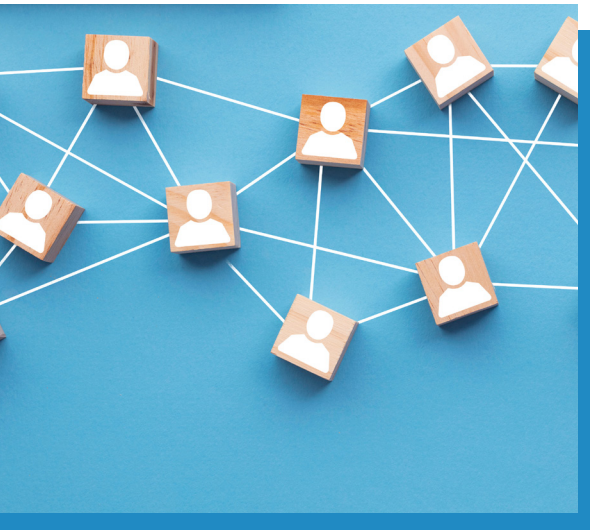


What is the Rapid Response Team?

The Rapid Response Team is a free legal and investigative service offered to members of I.C.W.U.C.

This program is dedicated to protecting the rights of union members suffering from serious work-related injuries, as well as their families.

I.C.W.U.C. understands that being grievously injured in an accident can have a major financial impact on union workers and their families. In addition to the basic costs of emergency medical care, surgery, and rehabilitation, there is also the possibility of suffering from a loss of income and benefits.



I.C.W.U.C. RRT resources can also be found at ICWUCRRT.com

These resources include a I.C.W.U.C. RRT Mobile App available for iOS and Android devices. The App enables users to capture on-site photos, witness statements, and other evidence in real time. This evidence may prove critical if litigation becomes necessary to protect the interests of our members and their families.

This booklet explains what steps to take after a workplace injury and what to expect following a traumatic incident.

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The RRT Process

When you or a loved one is involved in an accident, the aftermath can be overwhelming and chaotic. Amidst the physical pain, emotional distress, and confusion, it's essential to remember that gathering evidence is crucial to building a strong personal injury claim. Whether it's a workplace injury, auto accident, or a slip-and-fall incident, the evidence you collect can significantly impact the outcome of your case.

I.C.W.U.C. engaged the Rapid Response Team to assist during the critical post-accident stage because we understand the importance of preserving evidence and providing other assistance and resources, which can make or break any subsequent claims for personal injuries.

ESTABLISHING LIABILITY

Establishing liability in a workplace accident or personal injury case is crucial, as it determines who is legally responsible and who should pay for the victim's damages. Proving liability ensures the at-fault party takes responsibility and forms the basis for compensation.

First, gathering evidence from the accident scene is essential. This may include photographs of the scene, including any hazardous conditions that contributed to the incident. Eyewitness statements and surveillance footage, if available, can also provide valuable insights into what happened.

Next, it is essential to preserve any physical evidence related to the accident. This may involve keeping the damaged property, vehicle parts, or securing any equipment involved in a workplace accident. Physical evidence can serve as proof of how the accident occurred and who was at fault. Another key aspect of establishing liability is determining if any parties acted negligently or recklessly. Negligence occurs when someone fails to exercise reasonable care, leading to harm. To prove negligence, it must be shown that the at-fault party had a duty of care to the victim, which was breached and caused the injury.

Witness statements and expert testimony can further support the case. Eyewitnesses provide firsthand accounts, while experts, like accident reconstruction specialists or medical professionals, offer objective analyses of the incident.



ENSURING TIMELY ACTION

Ensuring timely action following a workplace accident or other personal injury case is of utmost importance for several crucial reasons. Meeting the statute(s) of limitations is vital. Every claim has a statute of limitations, which is the legal time frame within which a person must file. If the statute of limitations expires, you may lose your right to seek compensation for your injuries and damages. Failing to initiate legal action in a timely manner can severely limit, or even eliminate, your ability to pursue a claim, even if you have a strong case otherwise.

Furthermore, delays in pursuing a personal injury claim may lead to disputes regarding causation, liability, and damages. Insurance companies may question the severity of your injuries or argue that your injuries were not caused by the accident in question. By taking timely action, you can proactively address potential disputes and avoid unnecessary delays in the claims process.

DOCUMENTING INJURIES AND MEDICAL TREATMENT

Documenting injuries and medical treatment in a personal injury case is crucial for several reasons. First, it provides a detailed record of the injuries sustained. Immediate medical attention after an accident is essential for your health and for building a strong case. Medical records, diagnostic tests, and treatment plans serve as concrete evidence of the injuries. Providing these materials to your attorneys ensures no crucial detail is overlooked.

Second, documenting injuries and medical treatment proves that the injuries resulted from the accident. Insurance companies and opposing parties may argue that injuries were preexisting or less severe. By documenting injuries and care received after the accident, victims can clearly show the injuries were a direct result of the incident.

Third, proper documentation helps calculate the full extent of damages. In workplace injury and other personal injury cases, victims are entitled to compensation for medical expenses, both current and future. Detailed medical records help accurately assess these costs, ensuring victims receive the compensation they deserve.



PRESERVING ACCIDENT SCENE EVIDENCE

Preserving evidence of the accident scene is crucial in workplace and personal injury cases, as it helps determine liability and establish facts. Accurate evidence such as broken equipment, work area layouts, hazardous conditions, or property damage provides vital clues for investigators reconstructing events. This determination of liability is essential for holding the responsible party accountable.

When workplace rules restrict photography or electronic devices, employees should follow facility policies and prioritize safety and privacy. Instead of photos or videos, they can document evidence with detailed written descriptions, sketches, or by identifying witnesses. Promptly reporting the incident to workplace authorities is crucial to capture conditions close to the time of the accident.

Preserved accident scene evidence also serves as critical documentation in claims. Insurance companies, courts, and legal teams rely on this evidence to validate injuries and damages. Well-preserved evidence supports the victim's version of events, making their case stronger during negotiations and legal proceedings.

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH THE ACCIDENT SCENE



ENSURE SAFETY FIRST

Address any immediate dangers and medical needs.



DOCUMENT CONDITIONS

Show environmental factors, safety violations, and signage.



ACT QUICKLY

Photograph the scene promptly before any changes.



SCALE AND NOTES

Include objects for scale in injury photos and take detailed notes on each photo.



CAPTURE VARIOUS ANGLES

Take wide shots for context and close-ups for details.



PRESERVE ORIGINALS

Keep unedited originals and back them up securely.



CAPTURE MACHINERY DETAILS

If a machine was involved, take pictures of the machine from multiple angles.



RESPECT PRIVACY

Obtain consent when photographing individuals.

POSSIBLE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS

Some of the questions below will be applicable and some will not. Which questions are applicable depends on the nature and circumstances of the accident.



HOW

- How does the injured employee feel now?
- How did the injury occur?
- How could this accident have been prevented?



WHO

- Who was injured?
- Who saw the accident?
- Who was working with the injured person?
- Who had assigned the person to the task?
- Who had trained the person on the hazards and protective measures for this task?
- Who else was involved?

WHEN

When did the accident occur?

When did the person start this task?

When had the supervisor last checked on the job?



WHERE

Where did the accident occur?

Where was the person at the time of the accident?

Where was the supervisor at the time?

Where were fellow workers at the time?



WHAT

What were the injuries?

What was the person doing when injured?

What had the person been instructed to do?

What tools was the person using?

What machinery/equipment was involved?

What was the condition of the machinery involved?

What personal protective equipment was being used?

What safety rules were being followed?

What were the environmental conditions?



First Aid Emergencies at the Workplace Manual

This manual serves as a guide for responding to various first aid emergencies within the workplace. Its purpose is to provide employees with the knowledge and steps necessary to assist coworkers in need, reduce the severity of injuries or illnesses, and potentially save lives in critical situations.

GENERAL FIRST AID PROCEDURES



ASSESS THE SITUATION

Quickly evaluate the scene for safety. Ensure the area is safe for you, the victim, and others before providing assistance.



CALL FOR HELP

If the situation appears serious, call emergency services immediately. Provide them with precise information about the location and nature of the emergency.



CONSENT

Before administering first aid, gain consent from the conscious victim. If the victim is unconscious, consent is implied.



USE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Always use gloves and other PPE to protect yourself from blood-borne pathogens.



FOLLOW THE ABCS OF FIRST AID

Airway **B**reathing **C**irculation

Ensure the victim has an open airway, is breathing, and has a pulse. If necessary, perform CPR.

SPECIFIC FIRST AID EMERGENCIES

Before initiating any first aid to control bleeding, put on gloves to avoid contact between victim's blood and your skin.



BLEEDING

STOP BLEEDING

Press firmly over the wound with a cloth; don't remove if soaked, just add more.

ELEVATE AND CLEAN

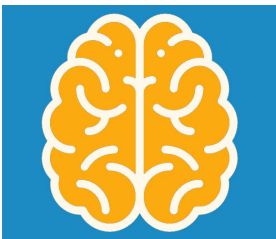
Raise the injury higher than the heart, clean with water, avoid harsh chemicals, and cover with a sterile dressing.

PRESSURE AND SHOCK

Use a pressure bandage for ongoing bleeding, monitor for shock by keeping the person warm and elevated.

PROFESSIONAL HELP

Seek immediate medical attention for severe cases. Quick, correct first aid can significantly aid recovery.



STROKE

If you suspect a stroke, act quickly and remember FAST to assess and respond:

Face: Ask the person to smile. Check if one side of the face droops.

Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. See if one arm drifts downward.

Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Listen for slurred or strange speech.

Time: If you observe any of these signs, time is absolutely critical. Call emergency services immediately, even if the symptoms seem to fluctuate or even disappear.

During emergencies, keep the person comfortable and calm. Avoid giving any food or drink so as to prevent choking. Monitor breathing and be prepared to administer CPR if trained to do so. Quick response is key in stroke cases to reduce any negative long-term effects.



CHOKING

SIGNS OF CHOKING

The person is clutching at their throat, unable to breathe or talk, or skin, lips, and nails are turning blue.

THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER

Position Yourself: Stand behind the person choking, slightly to one side. Ensure they are upright and positioned securely.

Wrap Your Arms: Put your arms securely around their waist, under their arms, and gently bend them forward.

Make a Fist: Form a fist with one hand just above their navel.

Grasp the Fist: Hold your fist with the other hand firmly but gently.

Perform Abdominal Thrusts: Thrust sharply upwards into their abdomen to dislodge the obstruction. Repeat as Necessary: Continue thrusts until the object is expelled or they breathe/cough forcefully.

FRACTURES

Stabilize the injured area without trying to realign the bone. Use a splint or padding to keep the limb immobilized and prevent further injury. Avoid putting pressure directly on the broken bone. Seek immediate medical help.



HEART ATTACK

Call 911 immediately for help. If you can't get an ambulance, have someone drive you quickly to the nearest hospital.

Take aspirin if medically advised. It will help prevent blood clotting and may significantly reduce serious heart damage.

Use nitroglycerin if prescribed while waiting for medical help.

Begin CPR if no pulse or breathing. If untrained, do hands-only CPR. Use an AED if available and the person is unconscious. It provides step-by-step voice instructions and delivers shocks when needed.



CPR

CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, can help save a life during cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating or beats too ineffectively to circulate blood to the brain and other vital organs. However, even after training, remembering the CPR steps and administering them correctly can be a challenge.

1

Check the scene for safety, form an initial impression and use personal protective equipment (PPE).

2

If the person appears unresponsive, CHECK for responsiveness, breathing, life-threatening bleeding or other life-threatening conditions using shout-tap-shout.

3

If the person does not respond and is not breathing or only gasping, CALL 9-1-1 and get equipment, or tell someone to do so.

4

Kneel beside the person. Place the person on their back on a firm, flat surface.

5

Give 30 chest compressions.

Hand position: Two hands centered on the chest.

Body position: Shoulders directly over hands; elbows locked.

Depth: At least 2 inches.

Rate: 100 to 120 per minute.

Allow chest to return to normal position after each compression.

6

Give 2 breaths.

Open the airway to a past-neutral position using the head-tilt/chin-lift technique.

Pinch the nose shut, take a normal breath, and completely seal your mouth over the person's mouth.

Ensure each breath lasts about 1 second and makes the chest rise; let the air exit before giving the next breath.

If the first breath doesn't make the chest rise, re-tilt the head and ensure a proper seal before giving the second breath. If the second breath fails, an object may be blocking the airway.

7

Give 30 chest compressions followed by 2 breaths. Use an AED as soon as available! Keep interruptions to compressions under 10 seconds.



SPINAL INJURIES

Assume one has a spinal injury if any of the following are true:

- There's evidence of a head injury with an ongoing change in the person's level of consciousness.
- The person complains of severe pain in his or her neck or back.
- An injury has exerted substantial force on the back or head.
- The person complains of weakness, numbness, or paralysis or lacks control of his or her limbs, bladder or bowels.
- The neck or body is twisted or positioned oddly or awkwardly.

1

Get help by calling 911 or emergency services.

2

Keep the person still using heavy towels on both sides of the neck.

3

Avoid moving the head or neck. Provide first aid without moving the head or neck. If no signs of circulation, start CPR without tilting the head back.

4

If the person is wearing a helmet or hardhat, keep it on.

5

Don't roll the person alone. If you must roll the person because they are vomiting, choking on blood, or you need to check their breathing, get someone to help. One person at the head and another at the side should roll the person onto their side, keeping their head, neck, and back aligned.



RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

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