Ensuring All Work Areas are Properly Evaluated and Safeguarded Against Risks

Issue

Lockheed Martin is a technology and security company that produces a wide range of products, from aerospace and defense technology, to a multitude of space systems and energy resources. In Ocala, the plant is charged with manufacturing parts that go into Lockheed Martin’s defense technology. When working in any sort of manufacturing facility, it is essential that environmental and safety regulations are maintained. The wellbeing of workers must be held in high regard in order to produce at a plant’s highest potential. While this is a standard that is morally important, it can also be beneficial to a company’s bottom line and employee satisfaction. Lockheed Martin Ocala had a system in place that explained and combated risks in every job area in the plant: The Job Hazard Assessment (JHA) Database. However, the database was in need of an update to ensure that every risk was being examined, as many safeguards as possible were being utilized, and employees understood and could access the database.

Intervention

The Job Hazard Assessment Database was an essential component of Lockheed Martin Ocala’s employee safety standards. However, in order to ensure that it was working to its highest potential, Anne-Elizabeth Rush aimed to improve upon the database in several areas:

- Ensure the database was organized and user-friendly by geographically grouping the JHA’s, creating easy to recognize titles, and deleting JHA’s no longer in use from the online database
- Guarantee that every production area in the plant had a JHA; from Anne-Elizabeth’s research it was established that 30 Job Hazard Assessments needed to be verified and six needed to be created from scratch
- Working with and communicating with the supervisors of each production area to either create or certify accuracy of the JHA’s in their area (i.e. understanding the activities, and thus risks, taking place in each area)

Impact

By improving upon the system already in place in the plant, employees were able to more easily access the Job Hazard Assessment applicable to their job. This allowed supervisors and operators to understand the risks of their job area and see what the company was doing to reduce risk (engineering, training), and what they should do to protect themselves (wear personal protective equipment, etc). The Job Hazard Database acts as an effective way to communicate, reduce, and explain the risks of a growing production facility.

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