

Environmental Incident Management

Factsheet

What is an incident?

An unplanned event that could, or does, result in human injury or illness, environmental pollution and/or degradation.¹

How do you identify that an incident occurred?

Incidents are identified through direct observation and indirect observation.

- Direct observation includes site inspections and/or seeing the actual incident occur.
- Indirect observation refers to identifying incidents through audit, review and monitoring reports, pre-compliance notices, a directive, rectification process (NEMA Sc 24(g)), enforcement action and/or prosecution from authorities.

The Importance of incident management to Eskom

The aims and objectives of incident management are to:

- Reduce risk and prevent any recurrence of incidents.
- Ensure that incidents are classified and recorded accurately.
- Ensure prompt and appropriate investigation.
- Involve and communicate information to all stakeholders.
- Ensure compliance to legal requirements.

Incidents that need to be reported to authorities

- If an incident is a NEMA Section 30, Control of incidents: *'an unexpected, sudden and uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance, including from a major emission, fire or explosion, that causes, has caused or may cause*

significant harm to the environment, human life and property'.

and/or

- National Water Act Section 20, Control of Emergency Incidents, *'incidents that pollutes or has the potential to pollute, or has or is likely to have detrimental effects on a water resource'*.
- Authorisations such as environmental authorisations, waste management licenses, atmospheric emission licences, and water use licenses also require incidents to be reported and managed effectively to prevent pollution and degradation.

Eskom governance on incident management

- Incident Management within Eskom is governed by the SHEQ Policy (32-727) principle of *striving for zero environmental incidents and conducting business with respect and care for the environment*.
- The incident management process is outlined in the Incident Management Process Control Manual (PCM) (240-51122806).
- The Environmental, Occupational Health and Safety Incident Management Procedure (32-95) provides the details of the nine (9) steps that must be followed in incident management.
- Many Divisions have certified ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) which also sets out compliance obligations and Operational planning and control.

Classification of incidents

¹ Incident Management Process Control Manual (PCM) (240-51122806).

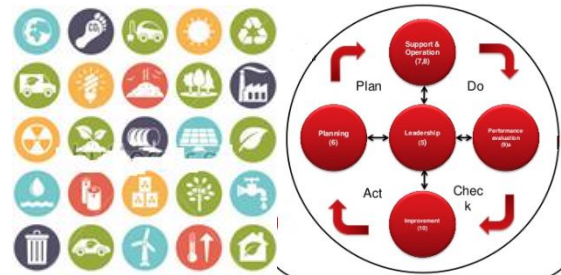
DID YOU KNOW?

- Eskom has a set of criteria that they use to classify their incidents.
- There are three main incident classification types, namely event, environmental legal contravention and environmental legal contravention in terms of the OHD.
- Performance on environmental legal contraventions and environmental legal contraventions in terms of the OHD are closely monitored.
- The Environmental Incident Classification Committee ratifies and classifies these types of incidents for reporting.

Striving for zero environmental incidents

- In order to achieve the SHEQ Policy commitment, detailed analysis of all incidents, including legal contravention incidents are done.
- Identifying the root causes are the key focus in preventing similar incidents from occurring.
- The sharing of case studies with lessons learnt from incidents is imperative in ensuring that incidents do not reoccur.

Let's move from Legal Contraventions to Compliance



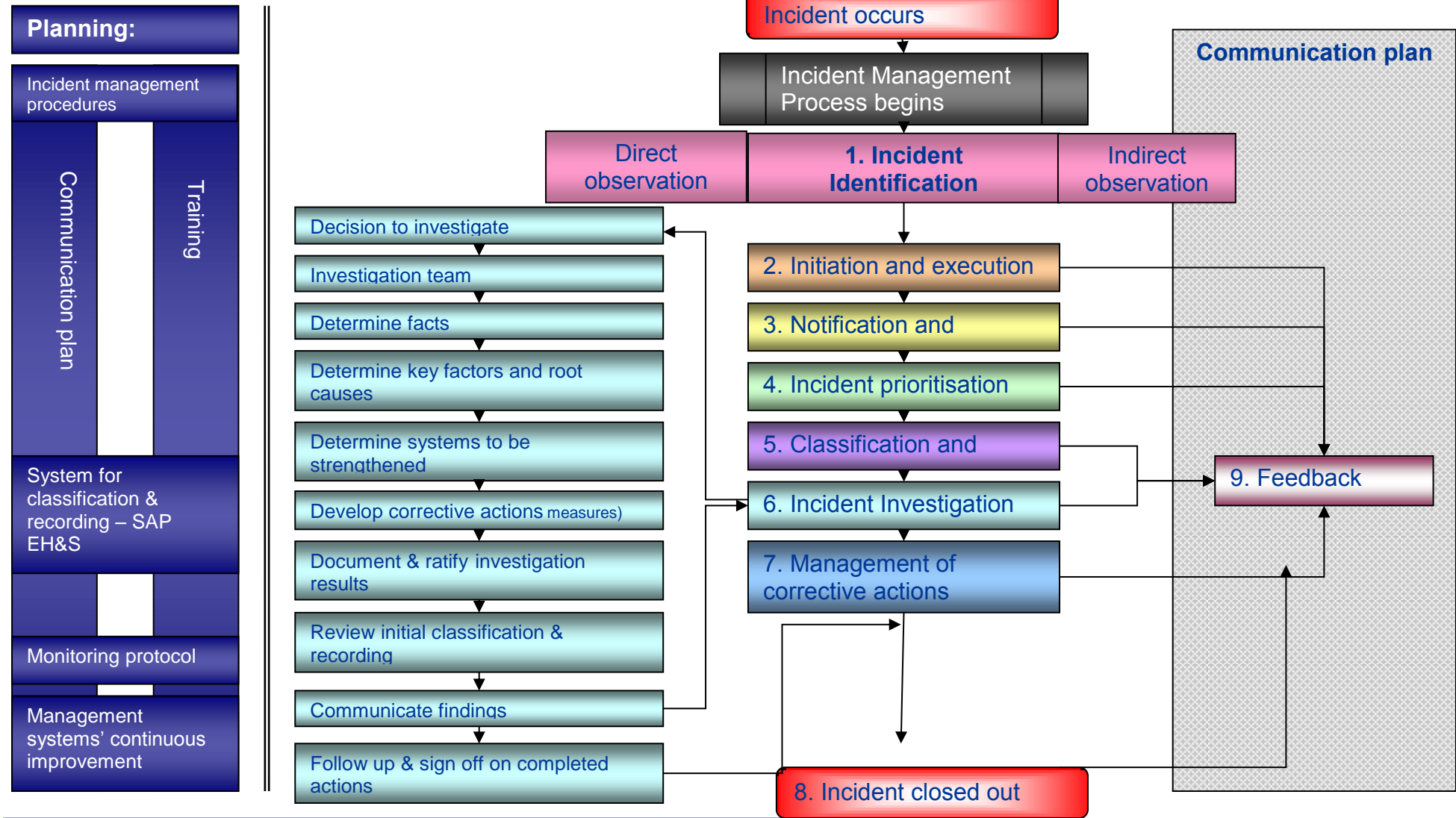
- By managing incidents, we can improve our environmental performance, compliance status and ultimately our environmental duty of care.
- Using the tools provided to us such as procedures and EMS can lead to improved incident management.
- Essentially, the way forward is to have a downward trend for legal contraventions and incidents in general due to effective governance and management. Thus reducing our impact on the environment from our operations and activities.



Remember

- Your environmental duty of care as per Section 28 of NEMA: *Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring...*

¹ Incident Management Process Control Manual (PCM) (240-51122806).



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Where can I view Incident Management documents?

EDC Search



Internal

- To view the Eskom Safety, Health, Environmental and Quality (SHEQ) Policy (32-727), [click here](#).
- To view the Incident Management PCM, 240-51122806, [click here](#).
- To view the Environmental Occupational Health and Safety Incident Management Procedure, 32-95, [click here](#).
- All incident management related information and documents can also be found on the Environmental Management Share Point Site.

External Stakeholders

Eskom's internal documents are controlled and therefore a request in terms of the Public Access to Information Act (PAIA) should be submitted for consideration.

Legislation is accessible on the Sabinet site: <http://discover.sabinet.co.za/> and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Department of Water and Sanitation websites.

Let's Share

- Supervisors must communicate this presentation to all employees, including those without access to computers and contractors.
- Please share this at your meetings and encourage staff to tell their own stories and have a discussion about incidents so as to avoid them.

For more information contact:

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[†] Incident Management Process Control Manual (PCM) (240-51122806).