



The Minor League in Legal Work—Become a Safety Representative

The front door in the office swings wide and has a tendency to smash into unsuspecting employees. Or the shoes a worker is supposed to wear in this work area are prone to slip on the unusually slick tile floor. These are health and safety concerns which could be eliminated with some minor changes. What makes these changes happen?

More often than not, a health and safety representative could fix these potential problems and so many others. These representatives have real legal power, and are directly involved with helping people make their workplaces more conducive to good health.

Health and safety representatives are responsible primarily for representing the employees of a company. They inspect working conditions and often meet with random employees to discuss health worries. There are many different safety concerns in virtually every job environment, and the safety representative fights to change circumstances, or works to improve them.

Not just employees benefit from having a safety representative. The employer will also be much better off. When accidents happen in the workplace, the employer can sometimes get the worst of a situation, and a safety representative would help limit those potential accidents.

While these representatives are mostly needed in the intensive workplaces—such as the construction field, or any building company—they are also legally required in offices everywhere. Some businesses will hire their own personal health and safety representative, and many companies will hire one already employed at a health and safety firm. In either case, a safety representative will need to be both motivated and detail oriented.

While monitoring safety is a very important part of a representative's work, they also struggle to enhance an employee's [healthcare opportunities](#). They concern themselves with the individual as well as the whole, and will fight to make sure a company's [employees](#) are getting the health benefits they deserve.

Safety representatives can become a very important person in an employee's career. They provide the employee with legal knowledge concerning their safety and healthcare rights, and they are also there to serve as a mediator between worker and management.

Not only does their work consist of investigating complaints and possible work hazards, they also make routine inspections focusing primarily on worker safety. They also take a large part in any business board meetings that focus on safety issues. They are the general spokesman for the employee. The representative will also devise or support training among the employees that will equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to be safer at work.

Currently, there are many [job opportunities](#) for health and safety representatives. [Jobs](#) are surprisingly stable, and the demand for knowledgeable representatives recently picked up dramatically. If you chose to make your career by becoming a health and safety representative, you would be directly affecting real people and work on making a difference in their lives. The salary depends a lot on who your employer is—whether you work for the government, or at a firm, or are hired directly by a company manager. But the average salary will be between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Educational requirements will vary also, but you will need to be at least a high school graduate. A two year degree is desired, and knowledge in government-instated work laws will be required. Past experience in related fields, and any certificates received in relevant areas will also help your chances to succeed in this career.

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