

# Overview of Leading Indicators for Occupational Health and Safety in Mining

*By International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM)*

**Description:** This 2012 report by the ICMM details the benefits, development, and application of leading indicators for safety & health in mining.

## Source

**Summary:** Because reliance on lagging indicators does not allow for improvement of safety performance, “leading indicators must be integrated with the overall business objectives, strategy and decision-making processes to deliver on desired performance.”

“Management efforts should [focus] on more frequently measurable leading indicators of precursor circumstances.” Leading indicators “must be placed within the context of a formal management system; a robust OHS management system makes use of both lagging and leading indicators, and ideally frames them within an index to demonstrate overall performance with other indicators of business success.”

Leading indicators should evolve as an organization evolves, and these indicators, which tend to be unique to the organization, are connected to the organization’s maturity. Regardless of how leadership approaches determining safety performance, “in the absence of sound leadership, other measures to manage OHS often fail.”

“Leading indicators are most effective when they are identified and used across all levels and functional areas of an organization...Leading indicators are of most use when they are developed, applied and used by the people responsible for implementing the appropriate preventative action.”

“Leading indicators thus contribute to an organization’s ability to develop appropriate proactive action strategies to prevent harm, through recognizing early signals, with allied safety, health, financial and other business benefits.”