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CULTURE IS THE KEY

Following on from the natural disasters that struck Queensland and Victoria earlier this year, over 50 percent of businesses now plan to review their OHS and risk management policies.

According to a recent survey, 78 percent of organisations discovered gaps in their OHS policies after the disasters, making risk management strategy a greater priority.

The same survey last year found that proactive risk management and the need for accurate reporting would be the two most important issues for OHS and risk managers in 2011. It appears that the recent events may have accentuated these requirements with 34 per cent of managers believing the average organisation is under greater pressure than ever to invest heavily in OHS policies and procedures. In fact, just under a quarter plans to invest more resources in safety policies and procedures .

Organisations found gaps in their OHS policies following the disasters and as a result, risk management strategy is now a greater priority overall.

Also highlighted was a number of the barriers OHS and risk managers face, with legally compliant OHS strategy not being a high priority and the behaviour of their workforce colleagues in assisting with policy and procedure compliance being at the top of the list.

While many drivers of Risk Management exist they require a structure that supports such programs. The culture determines the success of risk management support and senior managers of successful organisations need to be actively involved as champions.

As well as external events like natural disasters a number of catalysts create demand for risk management effectiveness, like protecting the brand, dealing with market instability and addressing compliance mandates. Corporate risk management needs to impact on finance, operations, reputation and other areas if it is to gain traction in an organisation.

No one can manage risk if they are not prepared to take risk. While individual initiative is critical, it is the corporate culture which facilitates the process. A positive risk culture is one which promotes individual responsibility and is supportive of risk taking. Risk managers need to identify what are the catalysts and levers they can use to influence a change to a positive risk culture.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

6 September 2011 - two half day seminars on:

Building engagement A.M.

Business Continuity P.M.

For further information contact: maree@riskmatters.com.au or 54 333 047