



UNDSS

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT
OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

Role of UNSMS in OSH:

Quick Guide

The SPPS Policy Series

Introduction

- New guidance on **Role of the UNSMS in Occupational Safety and Health**: approved in June 2019.
- Included in the SPM
- Describes the current situation (as of 2019).



Why is Safety so important?

Safety-related
fatalities outnumber
those related to
security by **3 to 1**

For **injuries and
illness**, rate is **10 to 1**



Basic Concepts

- Security refers to undesirable events that are deliberate, and caused by people;
- Safety refers to undesirable events that are not deliberate, such as natural disasters.



Threat or Hazard?

Harmful Events: Threats or Hazards?



UN-wide OSH Framework

- **UN system-wide OSH Framework** endorsed in **2015**.
- Commitment from UN Secretary-General to establish **integrated OSH system in UN Secretariat**.
- **New dedicated** Health Management and Occupational Safety & Health Division (in Department of Operational Support).



Safety within UNSMS entities

- Various UNSMS entities have different levels of responsibility for safety management; it may be led by different parts of their organization.
- Guidance does not restrict approaches; it clarifies minimum responsibilities.





Roles and Responsibilities

- **UN organizations** are responsible for the implementation of the OSH framework and OSH management within their organization
- At the country level:
 - the primary responsibility is with the country presence and OSH Focal Points
 - DO/SMT/Security assist

Senior Management* of UN Entities

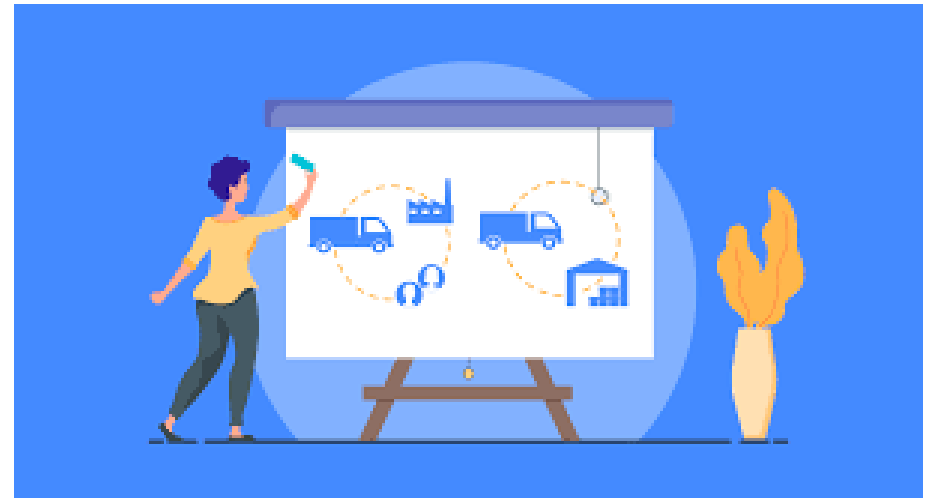
- Takes overall responsibility and accountability for prevention of workplace related injury and ill health ;
 - Establishes overall OSH risk management responsibilities of personnel;
 - Supports overall OSH management system.

NOT a security responsibility



UN Country Presence*

- **Identify and assess** safety hazards;
- **Manage** OSH risks;
- Undertake **post-incident analysis**;
- Support **OSH response** and other related OSH tasks.



OSH Focal Points

- Identify/coordinate the management of OSH hazards, especially with UNSMS and experts on fire, aviation and road safety;
- Assist with incidents, including on crisis response;
- Liaise with DOSH OSH capacity on UN system-wide compliance, standards, guidance, concepts and methodology.



Roles and Responsibilities

- **UN organizations are responsible** for the implementation of the OSH framework and OSH management within their organization
- At the country level:
 - The primary responsibility is with the country presence and OSH Focal Points
 - **DO/SMT/ Security personnel assist i.e. some aspects** related to OSH are **currently** managed through the **UNSMS policy framework**
- 1. Identification of hazards
- 2. Road, fire and aviation safety
- 3. Security planning and response

The 3 Main Areas of Safety

- **UNSMS** has remit for **3 areas of safety:** road safety, fire safety and aviation safety.



Security Personnel

For the purpose of crisis planning and based on the best available information, security personnel role is to:

- List safety hazards identified in the area through the GTA;
 - Seek advice & professional expertise on specific hazards through OSH office in the UN secretariat: osh@un.org [NEW]
 - Inform SMT of specific hazards
- Assist with fire, aviation and road safety measures;
 - Seek advice from DSS resources in CATSU, Road Safety Unit [NEW], DSSS
- Develop/implement crisis response plans for the hazards;
 - Review related UNSMS Policy/Guidelines
- Provide security support to safety-related incidents;

Designated Official

- Support OSH framework at the country level
 - Through identification of hazards; and
 - Decision on use of existing resources to manage risks, in collaboration with the Security Management Team.





Common Policies and Prep

- Whatever the cause of an undesirable event, the UNSMS **policy on security planning** applies, as do the **guidelines on management of security crisis situations**.
- Since Security is responsible for most crisis response, security personnel must collaborate with those responsible for each hazard on how best to **plan/manage the crisis response**.

Wrap-up

- No additional security responsibilities
- OSH capacity building to support UN country team (transition period)
- Expert resources available to security professionals: unosh.org



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Thank you

For more information:

See unosh.org

Or email: osh@un.org