

AI in Safety Using Data to Predict, Prevent and Engage Meeting Kit



WHAT'S AT STAKE

Artificial intelligence is showing up in more workplaces including in safety programs. That can be a good thing. But like any tool, it works best when the people using it understand what it can and can't do.

WHAT'S THE DANGER

AI safety tools can spot patterns, flag risks, and generate reports faster than any person could. But they can also give us a false sense of security – and that's where the real risk starts.

Over-Relying on the Technology

If workers or supervisors start to believe the AI will catch everything, they stop looking for hazards themselves. No system catches everything. Your eyes and instincts still matter – a lot.

Alert Fatigue

- Too many notifications cause people to start ignoring them
- When every alert feels like a false alarm, real warnings get missed
- A system that cries wolf teaches people not to listen

Data That Doesn't Tell the Whole Story

AI learns from the data it's given. If that data is incomplete missing near misses, underreported incidents, or certain types of jobs the AI's predictions will have blind spots too.

New Tools, No Training

Bringing in an AI safety platform without explaining it to workers is a recipe for confusion – and for workers ignoring or working around a system they don't understand.

Privacy and Monitoring Concerns

- Cameras, wearables, and sensors collect data about where you are and what you're doing
- Workers may not fully know what's being tracked or how it's used

- Concerns about surveillance can affect trust and morale on the job

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Technology supports safety. It doesn't replace the people doing the work.

Keep Using Your Own Judgment

AI tools are a second set of eyes, not a replacement for yours.

Keep doing your own hazard checks, keep noticing things that feel off, and keep speaking up – AI or no AI. The system doesn't feel what you feel. It doesn't know that a coworker seems off today, or that a machine sounds different than it did yesterday.

Take Every Alert Seriously

- Don't dismiss a safety alert just because the last few turned out to be nothing
- Check it out, pass it to your supervisor, and let someone with authority decide if action is needed
- Consistent follow-through is what makes alert systems actually work – ignoring alerts trains you to miss the real ones

Ask What's Being Tracked

If your workplace uses cameras, wearables, or sensors to monitor safety, you have every right to understand what data is collected and how it's used. Ask your supervisor or HR. Understanding the system helps you trust it – and helps you use it properly.

Workplaces that are transparent about monitoring tend to have fewer problems with workers working around it.

Report Everything – It Makes the System Better

- Near misses, close calls, and hazards you notice are all data the system needs to make accurate predictions
- The more complete the information, the better the AI can flag real risks
- Underreporting doesn't just hurt incident records it makes the safety tool less useful for everyone on your team

Get Trained on New Safety Tools

If a new safety app, platform, or monitoring system shows up at your workplace, ask for a proper walkthrough before you're expected to use it. Understanding what a tool does and what it doesn't do means you can trust it when it flags something real.

And if the system ever seems to be missing something obvious, say so. Workers on the ground often catch what engineers in an office couldn't anticipate.

FINAL WORD

AI is a tool, and tools are only as good as the people using them. Stay engaged, stay observant, and don't let a screen replace what you know from experience. The best safety system is always a combination of smart technology and smart workers.
