



Why the Utility Industry Needs EHS

Answering All Your EHS Questions for the Utility Industry

Utility operations present a unique set of challenges, with safety, compliance, and reliability at the forefront. Navigating the complexities of safety, health, and environmental protocols manually can be daunting.

You may still be managing your safety program with paper logs, various spreadsheets, or even simply via email, **but there is a much more efficient and effective way of doing things: by implementing an EHS platform.**

Keep reading to learn what EHS entails and what can be solved by introducing an EHS platform into your utility.



What is EHS?

EHS stands for environmental, health, and safety. At its most basic, **EHS refers to the laws, regulations, professions, and programs in place to protect the health and safety of employees, the public, and the environment from workplace hazards.**

Complying with the various regulations surrounding EHS is more than just an obligation to employees and customers though. It is also a very real legal obligation. Failing to comply with regulatory bodies like OSHA or the EPA can result in federal inspections, heavy fines, and even public scrutiny — on top of potential injury or illness occurring on the job.

EHS compliance comes in many forms, from employee safety training, to supplying the proper PPE, to internal inspections of both equipment and processes.



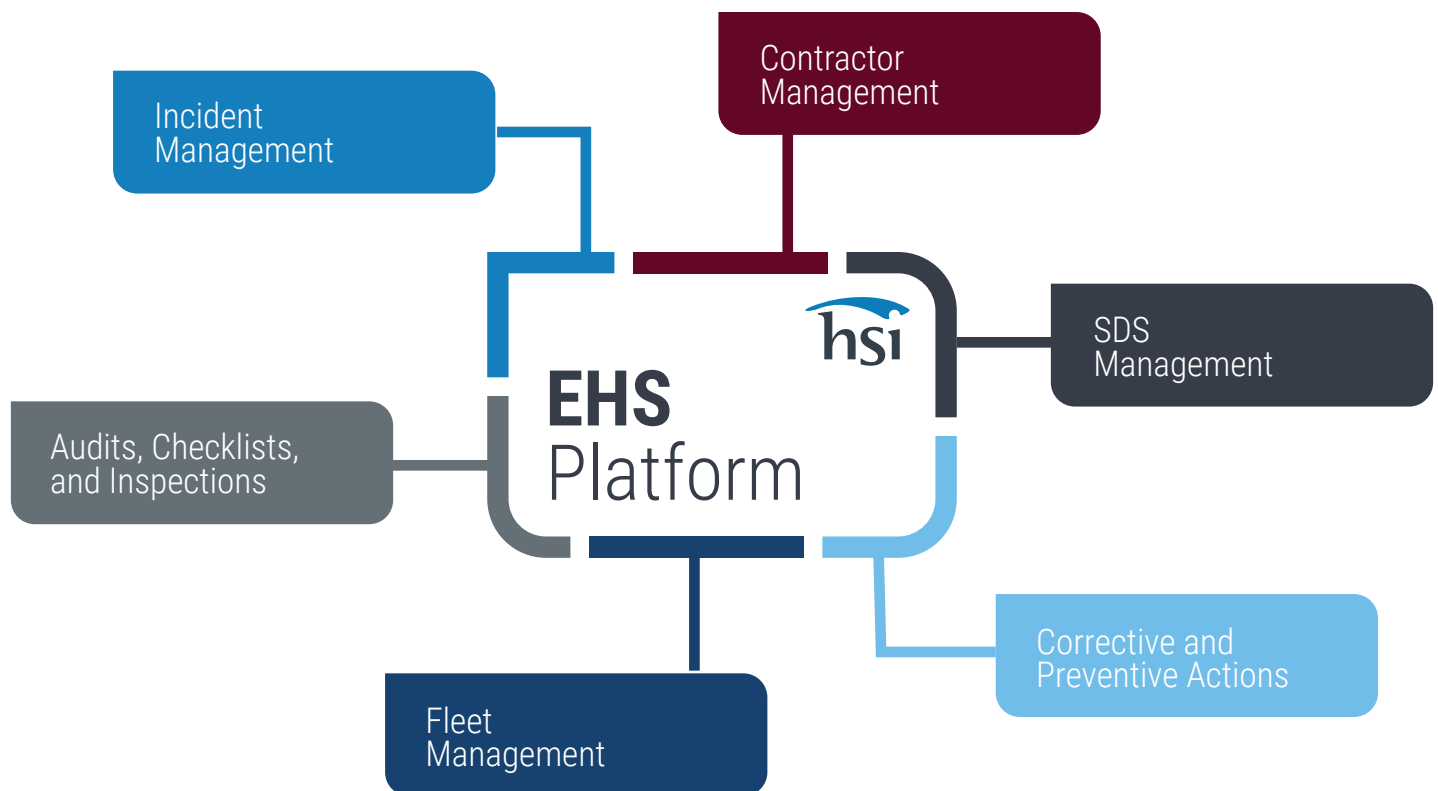
Why do I need an EHS platform?

I don't even have an EHS program. I have everything under control. I don't need more software.

Organizations have many reasons for not investing in an EHS platform. We'll address those reasons as we dig deeper into everything an EHS platform can offer, but first let's discuss why implementing a well-rounded system can help with these crucial responsibilities.

While you are probably aware that, as an employer, you must provide your employees with a work environment free from hazards likely to cause serious harm or death, you may not realize an EHS platform is an extremely useful tool to get you there.

EHS programs not only help identify, prepare for, and — ideally — eliminate safety hazards, they also demonstrate employers care for their employees. An organization with an active safety culture will likely have fewer incidents. This makes employees feel safer and more valued, which in turn affects employee morale, retention, productivity, and even hiring.



What can an EHS Platform do for you?

An effective EHS platform ensures your operations are running smoothly and your team is secure in the aftermath of on-the-job incidents. Take a look at some of the EHS features that can help at every step of your operation.

Incident Management

No matter how prepared you are, accidents still happen. And when they do, everyone must understand what needs to be reported, how, and to whom. **Accurate reporting ensures the incident is resolved properly and helps to show where additional training or safety precautions may be needed.**

Audits, Checklists, and Inspections

Audits identify weaknesses in a safety program by reviewing processes and procedures, while checklists and inspections cover day-to-day tasks and activities. Being able to build, save, and complete these safety reviews in one location, while also seeing and taking advantage of the results, helps you stay one step ahead of safety incidents.

Fleet Management

Eliminate manual paperwork and duplication of effort by housing maintenance schedules, vehicle inspections, and driver records on one platform. You can also send automated alerts to notify maintenance crews of vehicle deficiencies, show drivers which vehicles are out of service, and more.



Contractor Management

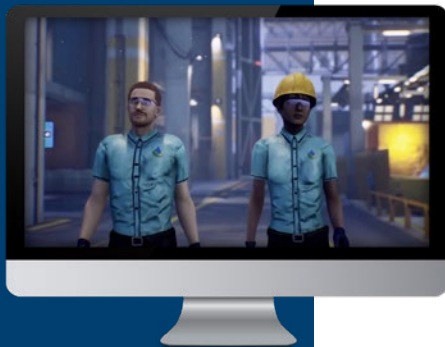
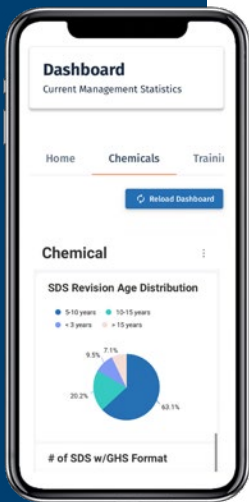
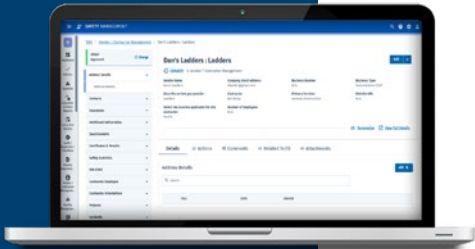
Contract workers are vital to the utility industry. An EHS platform gives you full insight into every facet of your contractors' involvement. Keep contractors compliant with required licenses and qualifications, monitor their project involvement, allow them to log incidents and hazards, and so much more.

SDS Management

Utilities handle a wide range of hazardous materials, products, and chemicals. It's critical to have a reliable and efficient system in place to manage safety data sheets (SDS) and health and safety information. Like many in the utility industry, you might have a three-ring binder with all your SDSs. Digitizing and centralizing this life-saving information is imperative — and easy on an EHS platform.

Corrective and Preventive Actions

Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPAs) are a vital component of safety management that help identify, correct, and prevent issues. After an inspection or investigation, EHS software can walk you through creating either corrective actions (to fix the safety situation in question) or preventive actions (to ensure the incident, and others like it, doesn't happen again in the future). These actions may come in the form of replacing something that produces a hazard with something that does not, installing physical safety measures to isolate people from hazards, supplying proper PPE, or even assigning safety training.



What do I look for in an EHS platform?

With dozens of EHS vendors available, deciding who to partner with can be overwhelming. The various features of an EHS system are likely going to be the biggest differentiator when it comes to selecting your preferred vendor.

Here are some features to keep in mind when comparing vendors:

Adaptable solutions. This option is especially important with industries that have very specific changing regulations and unique requirements.

Real-time data capabilities. Provide at-a-glance views of data as opposed to manually locating, compiling, and disseminating crucial safety metrics.

Automated processes. Automation is key for simplifying processes and enhancing productivity. By taking over processes and large volumes of repetitive administration that can easily be automated, employees are free to tackle more complex tasks.

Ready to be deployed. Top EHS software usually comes with every tool you need to comply with environmental, health, and safety regulations. Regardless of how many bells and whistles a vendor offers, their platform should be usable on launch, without having to wait months to be fully functional.

Customizable options. Having out-of-the-box solutions is nice, but unique business requirements may need a custom solution. Vendors that offer the flexibility to build custom solutions will have a leg up over their competition.

Support other systems. Most businesses use a mix of data management approaches to manage their information. Therefore, EHS software must be able to work with other platforms such as commonly available HR or financial software platforms, internally designed systems, and other commercial solutions an organization can acquire.



Partnering with an established vendor can make all the difference in the world when it comes to managing your safety program. The HSI EHS platform offers just what you need to get started in implementing a digital system — and what you want as you see the benefits of using an EHS platform and want to continue growing.



About HSI



HSI is your single-source partner for EHS, Compliance, and Professional Development solutions. HSI provides integrated e-learning content, training solutions, and cloud-based software designed to enable your business to improve safety, operations, and employee development. Across all industries, HSI helps safety managers, and technical employees, human resources, first responders, and operational leaders train and develop their workforce, keep workers safe, and meet regulatory and operational compliance requirements. HSI's focus is on training, software, and services for safety and compliance, workforce development, industrial skills, and emergency care. HSI is a unique partner that offers a suite of cloud-based software solutions including learning management, safety management, chemical SDS management, and more, integrated with content and training so businesses can not only monitor and manage multiple workflows in one system, but train employees via one partner.

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