

***Why is the RRP important?***

Recognizing indicators of risk *before* an accident happens provides perhaps one of the greatest opportunities for improved safety and performance. In the past decade many different risk management programs have been implemented in various industries, with varying degrees of success. These programs, designed to systematically collect accident precursor data, reduce risk exposure through a corrective action program.

The RRP will provide a way for railroads, FRA, and labor organizations to learn about why unsafe events occur, without fear of blame or punishment. It is intended to provide a way for the railroad and its employees to identify the underlying conditions that contribute to the unsafe events rather than focusing only on the employee's actions. It will also provide methods for employees to report events or safety conditions that could have harmful consequences, but didn't, without risk of disciplinary action. When fully implemented, the RRP will identify systemic factors that can address multiple problems, and will identify, track, and evaluate corrective actions, and will make information that was previously hidden from view or unknown available for analysis and problem solving.