

OWLinks is brought to you by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute to enable leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH developments and trends from around the world.

SPOTLIGHT



For the full Workplace Safety and Health Report 2012 on Singapore's workplace injuries and ill health, please visit [WSH Institute](http://www.wshi.gov.sg).

In this issue, we feature interesting articles related to Construction Safety. We hope you find these articles useful.

Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. Risk management in small construction projects in Singapore: Status, barriers and impact
2. Fall prevention and safety communication training for foremen: Report of a pilot project designed to improve residential construction safety
3. Interventions to prevent injuries in construction workers
4. Falling short in workplace safety

Risk management in small construction projects in Singapore: Status, barriers and impact

Date of publication: Jan 2013

Source: International Journal of Project Management

Author: Bon-Gang Hwang, Xianbo Zhao, Li Ping Toh

Synopsis:

This paper reports on the status, barriers and impact of implementation of risk management (RM) on project performance by 34 small construction companies in Singapore for 688 projects. The results indicated an RM

implementation rate of about 40% in small projects of less than S\$1 million. The often quoted barriers were “lack of time”, “lack of budget”, “low profit margin” and “not economical”. More than 64% of larger projects above S\$5 million were reported to have implemented RM in their construction work. 72.3% of public projects had RM implementation while the proportion for private projects was 26.5%. The study also showed positive correlation between RM implementation and improvement in overall, cost and schedule performance of small projects. The findings provide a better understanding of RM in small projects in Singapore and make its benefits convincing for small-scale projects.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Fall prevention and safety communication training for foremen: Report of a pilot project designed to improve residential construction safety

Date of publication: Feb 2013

Source: Journal of Safety Research, Volume 44, Pages 111–118

Author: Vicki Kaskutas, Ann Marie Dale, Hester Lipscomb, Brad Evanoff

Synopsis:

As falling from height incidents remain a major concern in many countries, this research studied whether foremen training in fall prevention and safety communication would improve worker safety. An 8-hour training package was developed with input from foremen and apprentices and was piloted with 10 foremen. Results from 29 worksite observational audits and 97 foremen/crew member surveys administered before and after the training were compared. After the training, there was increased frequency in daily mentoring and toolbox talks, talks were more interactive and focused on hazardous work tasks. Foremen observed their worksites for fall hazards more often. There was increased compliance with fall protection, and decreased unsafe behaviours during audits of the trained supervisors' worksites.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Interventions to prevent injuries in construction workers

Date of publication: Dec 2012

Source: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 12

Author: Van der Molen HF, Lehtola MM, Lappalainen J, Hoonakker PLT, Hsiao H, Haslam R, Hale AR, Frings-Dresen MHW, Verbeek JH

Synopsis:

This is a systematic review of scientific literature on the effects of various safety interventions to prevent occupational injuries among construction workers. Thirteen international studies were reviewed, including those looking at the effects of regulations, safety campaigns, drug-free workplace programme, training programme, safety inspections, and occupational safety and health (OSH) services such as risk assessment and health surveillance. The review found evidence to support safety campaign and drug-free workplace programme at the company level in reducing non-fatal construction-related injuries. However, based on the research findings reviewed, there was insufficient evidence on the effectiveness of regulations to reduce fatal and non-fatal injuries. There was also insufficient evidence that regional-level interventions such as safety campaigns, training, inspections or the introduction of OSH services were effective at reducing non-fatal injuries in construction workers.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Falling short in workplace safety

Date of publication: Feb 2012

Source: Research publications

Author: Department of Labour, New Zealand

Synopsis:

This report presents the findings of 340 serious harm construction fall-related accidents in New Zealand during the 3-year period of 2007-2009. The findings provided evidence for the development of their Construction Sector Action Plan 2010- 2013, and for the design of the Preventing Falls from Height Harm Reduction Project in New Zealand. It revealed that 60% of all fall from height cases were from heights of less than 3 metres, which also accounted for 70% of falls from temporary structures and 50% of falls from permanent structures. Roofers, in particular, experienced more falls (40 percent) from a permanent structure than any other industry group. Half of the falls by roofers were from higher than 3 metres of permanent structures.

To read more, click [HERE](#).

Other Useful Resources:

- [Code of Practice on Workplace Safety and Health \(WSH\) Risk Management](#) (WSH Council)
- [Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights](#) (WSH Council)