

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

WSH Institute Solutioning Session on measuring Safety and Productivity using Building Information Modelling (BIM)



Organised in collaboration with NUS, the WSH Institute Solutioning Session on 11 June 2014 saw 30 invited participants from the construction industry discussing the link between safety and productivity and the potential of using BIM to facilitate the attainment of safety and productivity improvements.

For more details, please click [here](#).

Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. [The role of psychological factors in workplace safety](#)
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The role of psychological factors in workplace safety

Date of publication: November 2013

Source: Ergonomics, 2013, Vol. 56, No. 12, 1928–1939

Author: Martina Kotzé and Leon Steyn

Synopsis:

Differences in psychological factors between employees involved in workplace incidents/accidents and driver vehicle accidents were investigated.

The study population consisted of 279 permanent employees, both technical and functional, at an electricity supply organisation in South Africa. Results showed that cognitive ability (thinking, conceptualising and reasoning) did not appear to play a role in workplace incidents or accidents, including driver vehicle accidents. Wellness factors such as burnout and sense of well-being, and personality traits such as conscientiousness, pragmatism and gregariousness were shown to play a statistically significant role.

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

A review of cancer among shipyard workers

Date of publication: February 2012

Source: Studies and Research Projects / Report R-715, Montréal, IRSST, 2012, 115 pages

Author: G. Brantom, Pirjo Heikkilä, Remko Houba, Dick Heederik and Frits van Rooy

Synopsis:

This review seeks to provide a better understanding of the cancer risk associated with working in shipyards.

The review considers today's cancer risks which, due to a latency period of five to 40 years between first exposure and cancer diagnosis, are primarily based on exposures that occurred between 1930 and 1990. It finds that the main source of excess cancer risk among shipyard workers is from asbestos exposure. Shipyard workers were found to have higher risk of developing mesothelioma, cancer of lung and cancer of larynx. The highest levels of exposure to asbestos, and thus the highest cancer risk, occurred in shipyards before the mid-1970s.

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

Workplace mental health: Developing an integrated intervention approach

Date of publication: May 2014

Source: LaMontagne et al. BMC Psychiatry 2014, 14:131

Author: Anthony D LaMontagne, Angela Martin, Kathryn M Page, Nicola J Reavley, Andrew J Noblet, Allison J Milner, Tessa Keegel and Peter M Smith

Synopsis:

This report states that workplace interventions to address common mental health problems have evolved relatively independently along three main disciplines: medicine, public health and psychology. The report argues that these three threads need to be integrated to optimise the prevention of mental health problems in working populations. It finds that to realise the greatest population mental health benefits, workplace mental health intervention needs to comprehensively protect mental health by reducing work-related risk factors for mental health problems; promote mental health by developing the positive aspects of work as well as worker strengths and positive capacities; and address mental health problems among working people regardless of cause.

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

Is temporary employment a risk factor for work disability due to depressive disorders and delayed return to work? The Finnish public sector study

Date of publication: October 2013

Source: Scand J Work Environ Health – online first

Author: Ervasti J, Vahtera J, Virtanen P, Pentti J, Oksanen T, Ahola K, Kivimäki M, Virtanen M

Synopsis:

The association between temporary employment and work disability due to depression was studied. It linked the prospective cohort study data of 107, 828 Finnish public sector employees to national registers on work disability due to depression from January 2005 to December 2011.

Results showed that disability episodes were longer among temporary employees compared to permanent employees. The association between temporary employment and the length of depression-related disability episodes was more pronounced among participants with a low educational level and older employees.

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

Other Useful Resources:

- [Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in the oil and gas industry](#) (US Bureau of Labour Statistics)
- [Awareness of occupational hazards and use of safety measures among welders: A cross-sectional study from Eastern Nepal](#) (BMJ Open)
- [Building workplace safety with rewards and recognition](#) (OHS Online)
- [Demystifying process safety management for an enabled workforce](#) (EHS Today)
- [Estimating the cost of accidents and ill-health at work: A review of methodologies](#) (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work)