



Issue 47 (June 2016)

SPOTLIGHT

Preventing Work-Related Traffic Accidents (WRTA) Involving Motorcyclists: Report on Session



41 vocational riders and supervisors from 14 organisations participated in WSH Institute's Solutioning Session on WRTA on 19 February 2016.

Factors identified to cause WRTAs included the environment, other road users, work demands and individual factors. The group also brainstormed on possible solutions. For the full report from the session, click [here](#).

Addressing Nanomaterial Risks at the Workplace: Report on Session

WHAT'S TRENDING

Commission proposes to protect workers better from cancer-causing chemicals



(Source: European Commission)

To improve protection for workers from cancer-causing chemicals, the European Commission proposes changes to the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (2004/37/EC) to limit exposure to 13 cancer-causing chemicals at the workplace.

[More...](#)

Relevance: Reducing or eliminating exposures to carcinogenic chemical agents can help prevent occupational cancers. How can we do more to protect our workers?

Pentagon Testing Small Robot to Help Hunt Naval Mines



(Source: Defense One)

The US military has been looking for an underwater bomb disposal robot for years. It finally has one.

[More...](#)

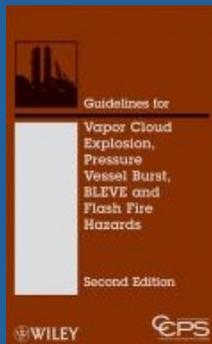


Relevance: How can drones be used to eliminate risks of workers operating in dangerous environments?

The WSH Institute organised a Visiting Expert Series session on 24 February 2016 to call the industry to action, to start recognising and acknowledging the potential risks of nanomaterials and to manage the risks using available information and guidance.

Associate Professor Ng Kee Woei from the Nanyang Technological University and Dr. Michael Riediker from the Institute of Occupational Medicine (Singapore) spoke at this session. For the full report and presentation material, click [here](#).

RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE WSH INSTITUTE COLLECTION*



TITLE:

Guidelines for Vapor Cloud Explosion, Pressure Vessel Burst, BLEVE, and Flash Fire Hazards

AUTHOR:

American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Center for Chemical Process Safety

AREA OF INTEREST:

Chemical plants -- Fires and fire prevention, Safety measures



Please use your QR code scanner to access the recommended reading titles on [Fire and Explosion](#)

Click [here](#) to access WSH Institute's e-books collection.

* The WSH Institute Collection is a compilation of WSH-related resources accessible to the public through our collaboration with the National Library Board (NLB).

OWL HIGHLIGHTS

1 Toolbox Talks to prevent construction fatalities: Empirical development and evaluation

Date of publication: 2016

Source: Science Direct

In construction, toolbox talks are seen as an important form of safety communication. While common, evaluation of the frequency and quality of toolbox talks are scarce. This paper seeks to understand current industry practices and evaluated 2 different types of materials used in typical toolbox talks. Both workers and supervisors' views were obtained

for analysis. Findings revealed that simple line drawings increased workers' ability to see and correctly identify hazards in fatal accidents. For supervisors, brief one-page toolbox talk guides are preferred due to time pressures.



To read more, click [here](#)

2 Workplace Safety and Health in Singapore Healthcare Institutions



Date of publication: 2015

Source: Workplace Safety and Health Institute, Workplace Safety and Health Council

Ten healthcare institutions, employing about two-fifth of the healthcare workforce in Singapore, collaborated with Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute to analyse their data on work-related injuries and illnesses. A total of 1138 cases of workplace injuries, 373 workplace aggression cases, 4 cases of occupational disease and 75 near miss incidents were recorded in these institutions in 2013. For cases requiring >3 days of medical leave, slips, trips and falls was the leading incident type. For cases which required less than or equal to 3 days of medical leave, sharp injuries was the leading incident type. Work Environment was the leading root cause of work-related injuries and near misses.

To read more, click [here](#)

3 Second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER-2): Overview report: Managing safety and health at work

Date of publication: 2016

Source: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER) is EU-OSHA's survey that examines how safety and health risks are managed in European workplaces. With 50,000 enterprises in 36 countries across Europe interviewed on OSH matters, the survey aims to identify factors that encourage enterprises to implement measures and those that discourage action. Some of the main findings of the ESENER-2 are:

- Risk factors leading to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are reported equally across all activity sectors. However, psychosocial risk factors, which are perceived as more challenging, are only frequently reported from service sectors.
- Around three quarters of establishments in the EU-28 indicate that they carry out risk assessments regularly.
- Establishments that do not carry out regular risk assessment are not doing so because they perceive that risks and hazards are already known and that there are no major problems in the workplace.
- The complexity of legal obligations is the most frequently reported major difficulty or barrier for OSH management, especially for smaller enterprises.



The paper states that effective design of interventions require the identification of drivers and barriers while taking the size of enterprises, activity sectors and country differences into consideration. Finally, participation of workers is an essential success factor in the management of OSH.

To read more, click [here](#)

4 Health correlates of workplace bullying: A 3-wave prospective follow-up study



Date of publication: 2016

Source: Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health

Workplace bullying denotes a situation in which an employee repeatedly and persistently becomes a target of hostile, aggressive, threatening or humiliating behaviour from one or more colleagues, managers or clients. The study was conducted from 2006 to 2011, involving 7,502 Danish employees from the public and private sector. Results showed that sick leave, poor self-rated health, poor sleep, and depressive symptoms were the main consequences of workplace bullying. With the exception of poor sleep quality, all of the adverse health effects of bullying persisted over several years regardless of whether bullying is discontinued or not.

To read more, click [here](#)

Other Useful Resources

- Safety Improvement on Building Construction Sites in Qatar (*Procedia Engineering*)
- From Evidence to Practice: Workplace Wellness that Works (*Institute for Health and Productivity Studies*)

- The Prevalence of PTSD in Intensive Care Unit Staff and the Common Coping Strategies Used (*Annals Academy of Medicine*)
- Protecting the Health and Safety of Workers in Emergency Vector Control of Aedes Mosquitos: Interim Guidance for Vector Control Ad Health Workers (*World Health Organization*)

OWLlinks is brought to you by Workplace Safety and Health Institute, Singapore. OWLlinks enables leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH development and trends from around the world.

For enquiries or feedback, please email us at contact@wshi.gov.sg
Visit the *WSH Institute website* for updates on WSH-related matters, information and events.

Vision: A leading Institute for WSH knowledge and innovations.
Mission: Enhancing WSH through knowledge, innovations and solutions.

The information provided here is based on information available at the time when this issue of *OWLlinks* was compiled. The information provided here is not to be construed as implying any liability to any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations of the reader of *OWLlinks* under the law. Please note that Workplace Safety and Health Institute will be unable to provide full-text of articles listed in this *OWLlinks* if it contravenes the copyright regulation.

If you wish to update your *OWLlinks* profile, please click [here](#).

If you do not wish to continue receiving the *OWLlinks* by email, please click [here](#) to unsubscribe.

An Initiative of



The Observatory for WSH Landscape (OWL) is a function of Workplace Safety and Health Institute. OWL aims to observe, analyse and communicate changes in the workforce, workplace and working life to researchers, policy makers and industries in Singapore and Asia.