



## Issue 62 (May 2018)

### SPOTLIGHT

#### Preventing Amputations at Work - Solutioning Session Report



Did you know that amputations were one of the major contributors to major injuries in 2016? What were the causes of amputations and how do we prevent them?

To answer these questions, WSH Institute conducted a solutioning session – Preventing Amputations at Work on 24 May 2017 with participants from 18 organisations. Subsequently, [findings from the session](#) were shared at the Prevention of Amputations Seminar on 24 January 2018.

Click [here](#) to download the slides presented at the seminar.

### WHAT'S TRENDING

#### Mobile learning: On the small screen



(Source: IOSH Magazine)

A growing number of organisations are adopting online courses to deliver workplace safety and health (WSH) training. Offering flexibility and accessibility, it removes the need to coordinate a convenient date and location for a training session. Businesses can also use mobile learning to periodically remind workers of important safety messages.

[More...](#)



*While mobile learning may not replace traditional training completely, due to the lack of hands-on assessment; it has the potential to reach a greater number of workers and raise their WSH knowledge and awareness.*

#### Internet-based stress management for distressed managers



(Source: Occupational & Environmental Medicine)

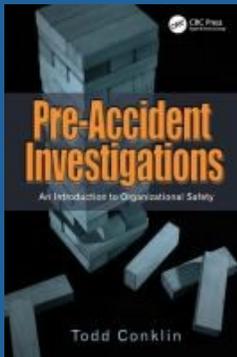
A study has examined the efficacy of a guided Internet-based stress management intervention amongst 117 distressed managers from various sectors. Results showed that these participants reported significantly lower levels of perceived stress, burnout, depression and insomnia severity, at post-treatment.

[More...](#)



*For people with hectic work schedules, an internet-based stress management tool can be an accessible, time-saving and effective approach to reducing stress.*

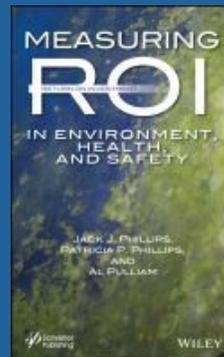
## RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE WSH INSTITUTE COLLECTION\*



**TITLE:**  
Pre-accident Investigations: An Introduction to Organizational Safety

**AUTHOR:**  
Todd Conklin

**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
Industrial Safety



**TITLE:**  
Measuring ROI in Environment, Health and Safety

**AUTHOR:**  
Jack J. Phillips, Patricia Phillips, Al Pulliam

**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
EHS Planning

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 The task in hand

**Theme:** Workplace Safety

**Date of publication:** March 2018

**Source:** Institution of Occupational Safety and Health



One of the most common injuries in the construction industry involves the hands. In 2017, a fifth of all non-fatal injuries in construction in Great Britain were caused by handling, lifting and carrying and seven percent were caused by moving machinery. While the risks to hand injuries can be minimised by selecting appropriate hand protection, the different construction activities (e.g. welding, cutting etc.) meant that different levels of protection are required.

The article suggested several considerations in choosing the appropriate protection. They include:

- Identify the task and risks involved;
- Assess how workers may come into contact with hazardous chemicals;
- Consider workers' dexterity when choosing gloves;
- Assess the level of cut and/or thermal protection required and
- Involve workers in choosing hand protection



To read more, click [here](#)

## 2 Loading dock distractions: Improve safety by clearly communicating danger

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**Theme:** Technology and Safety  
**Date of publication:** February 2018  
**Source:** EHS Today



Distracted workers at loading docks can result in incidents which lead to damaged products, broken equipment and even employee injuries. These distractions include forklifts manoeuvring in and out of trailers, pre-occupied pedestrians looking at orders or mobile devices as well as new shipments stacked high on pallets to create blind spots. In the United States, there are approximately 95,000 forklift incidents yearly, which lead to losses of \$785 million in direct and indirect costs.

These incidents can be prevented by effective use of equipment and technology. For example, dock controls that can interlock pieces of equipment to create a safe sequence of operations. Also, motion-sensor technology that combines with LED lights and audible alarms can provide clear and consistent traffic warnings inside and out; and retractable barriers can help prevent pre-occupied workers from falling off of open docks or into recessed pits inside facilities.



To read more, click [here](#)

# 3 The invisible threat lurking under gloves

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**Theme:** Occupational Disease

**Date of publication:** February 2018

**Source:** OHS Online

Gloves are worn by workers to prevent contact with hazardous chemicals, extreme temperatures, and harmful germs. However, workers may find that they are not protected from occupational skin disorders (OSDs) even while wearing gloves. In the United States, OSDs affect more than 13 million workers, decreasing productivity and employee morale and lead to health and safety violations. It is estimated that a single case of OSD can cost an employer \$3,500 in compensation claims and 24 days of disability. Thus, it is important for employers to protect workers' skin and promote a positive hand hygiene-compliant environment.



Gloves, when worn for too long, may lead to moisture build up and harbour within, increasing the risk of fungal infections. Broken skin can lead to other skin infections like Streptococcus pyogenes and S. aureus, which cause red, painful, swollen skin with ulceration, oozing, or pustules. The article suggested that OSDs can worsen due to inappropriate skin care products and employers should implement a skin care programme that is customisable and offers a clear and practical approach to create behavioural change and improve skin health.



To read more, click [here](#)

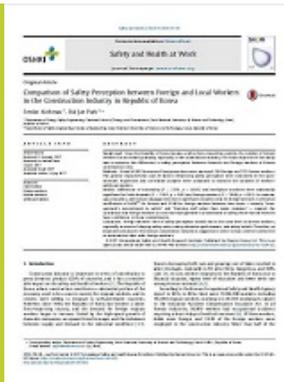
# 4 Comparison of safety perception between foreign and local workers in the construction industry in Republic of Korea

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**Theme:** Safety Culture

**Date of publication:** March 2018

**Source:** Safety and Health at Work



Increasing labour shortages in the Republic of Korea has resulted in the country importing foreign workers for its construction industry. In 2014, 0.8 percent of foreign workers employed in the construction industry were involved in occupational accidents in the workplace, higher than the 0.5 percent recorded for domestic Korean workers. In the same year, there were 85 total work-related fatalities involving foreign workers and 35 were from the construction industry.

This study sought to determine the differences in safety perception between domestic and foreign workers at Korean construction sites. Results of the survey, which involved a total of 891 Korean and foreign workers, revealed that language, education, nationality and age had a significant influence on foreign workers' perception of safety. Managerial safety directives were less effective for foreign workers compared to Koreans, suggesting that carrying out safety training and instructions might be insufficient for workers to be aware of safety at construction sites. Additionally, the study inferred that foreign workers were less likely to believe that safety rules were meant to protect workers.

Owing to the differences in education level and language ability, the authors suggested designing safety training for foreign workers according to their needs and presenting safety requirements in several languages; in addition to providing information on employees' rights and employers' responsibilities.



To read more, click [here](#)

## Other Useful Resources

- NIOSH study shows association between noise exposure and heart disease risk factors (*Occupational Health & Safety*)
- Workplace design solutions: Protecting workers during the handling of nanomaterials (*Occupational Safety and Health Administration*)
- Are work organization interventions effective in preventing or reducing work-related musculoskeletal disorders? A systematic review of the literature (*Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health*)
- Management of occupational health and safety in European workplaces – Evidence from the Second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (*European Agency for Safety and Health at Work*)
- A systems approach to worker health and wellbeing (*Campbell Institute*)
- Preventing hearing loss caused by chemical (ototoxicity) and noise exposure (*Occupational Safety and Health Administration*)

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Visit the *WSH Institute website* for updates on WSH-related matters, information and events.

**Vision:** A Healthy Workforce in a Safe Workplace.  
**Mission:** Provide evidence-based, insightful and practical solutions.

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