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Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

Development of a web-based Leadership and Worker Engagement (LWE) Toolkit for small and medium enterprises in construction

Date of publication: 2011
Source: Research Report RR880, Health and Safety Executive, UK
Author: Nikki Bell, Jane Hopkinson, Victoria Bennett and Jennifer Webster

Synopsis:
This report summarises the development of a web-based, interactive toolkit in United Kingdom. The toolkit was an interactive website consisting of a range of strategies, tools, techniques, information sheets for different business structures. It aims to motivate and provide assistance to improve the health and safety practices of SMEs in construction industry through leadership and worker engagement (LWE). Many SMEs realised the potential impact of their leadership practices were overlooked and thus welcomed the leadership assessment tools and guidance. They wanted to continue its use and thought that other SMEs would benefit from it.

To read more, click HERE

Management of Plant Ageing

Date of publication: April 2012
Source: Loss Prevention Bulletin 224
Author: Stuart Pointer

Synopsis:
The management of plant ageing is becoming a major concern in the process industry, especially in plants that have been in operation for many years. If the effects of ageing (e.g. evidenced by corrosion or material failure) are ignored, they will inevitably lead to a loss of containment situation and/or potentially a catastrophic accident. This article discusses the key elements to be considered in an effective plant ageing management regime. The importance of strong leadership is specifically highlighted.

To read more, click HERE [Access via publisher's website]

On-tool controls to reduce exposure to respirable dusts in the construction industry

Date of publication: 2012
Source: Research Report RR926, Health and Safety Executive, UK.
Author: Dom Pocock

Synopsis:
The effectiveness of various methods of on-tool controls to reduce exposures was reviewed in this report. On-tool local exhaust ventilation (LEV) was found to be capable of reducing exposures by 90% or more. Good hood design and proper choice of vacuum extraction source are crucial to ensure high level of reduction. As exposure cannot be completely eliminated with the on-tools controls, the use of supplementary respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is still needed as many construction materials contain respirable crystalline silica.

To read more, click HERE

The burden of occupational cancer in Great Britain

Date of publication: 2012
Source: Research Report RR931, Health and Safety Executive, UK.
Author: Lesley Rushton, Sanjeev Bagga, Ruth Bevan, Terry Brown, John Cherrie, Phil Holmes, Lea Fortunato, Sally Hutchings, Rebecca Slack, Martie Van Tongeren, Charlotte Young and Gareth S Evans

Synopsis:
The authors estimate the burden of occupational cancer in Great Britain due to occupational exposure to carcinogens or occupational circumstances using attributable fractions (AF), which is the proportion of cases that would not have occurred in the absence of exposure. The estimated AF was 5.3%, translating to 8,010 cases of the country's total cancer deaths being attributable to work (men: 8.2% (6355 deaths); women: 2.3% (1655 deaths). Cancer cases diagnosed (incidence) data from 2004 and mortality data from 2005 were used in the analysis. The AF for cancer cases diagnosed was 4.0% (or 13,598 cases), 5.7% (or 9,988 cases) for men and 2.1% (or 3,611 cases) for women. The report provides estimates of attributable fractions, attributable number of cancer deaths (for 2005), attributable number of cancer cases diagnosed (for 2004) for males and females in Great Britain for 24 separate cancer sites, 41 carcinogens or occupational circumstances and for over 60 industry sectors.

To read more, click HERE

Work-related eye injuries in Australia

Date of publication: July 2008
Source: Australian Safety and Compensation Council
Author: Tim Driscoll, Louise Flood and James Harrison

Synopsis:
The report provides a detailed analysis of work-related eye injuries in Australia. Data from emergency departments, hospital admissions and workers' compensation agencies were compiled for the years between 2002 and 2004. Most of the injuries were minor, not requiring hospital admission. It was reported that there were about 500 admissions to hospitals per year, most involving foreign bodies in the eye, particularly on the cornea. Construction and manufacturing industries accounted for most of these cases. Even though many eye injuries occurred when no proper eye protections were used, there were still a considerable number of cases reported when appropriate safety eyewear were worn. It suggests the need to improve training of workers on proper eyewear and the design of the safety eyewear.

To read more, click HERE

Other Useful Resources:
• **Eye and Face protection eTool** (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)
• **Workers' health: global plan of action** (World Health Organisation)
• **Plant ageing: Management of equipment containing hazardous fluids or pressure** (Health and Safety Executive)