

OWLlinks 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

Warm greetings from WSH Institute!
Hereby wishing all readers a Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year.

OWLlinks Feedback Survey

To date, we have published 18 issues of OWLlinks. We would like to seek your comments on what we have done well and areas that we can improve on. This will help us to ensure that OWLlinks continue to be relevant and meet your needs.

Your input is important to us. Please participate in this survey, which will open from 17 January 2014 to 24 January 2014. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete.

Please click [here](#) for the survey.

Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. **Fatal occupational injuries among non-governmental employees in Malaysia**
 2. **Occupational cancer - A workplace guide**
 3. **Fatal workplace accidents in outsourced operations in the manufacturing industry**
 4. **Electrical risks at the workplace**
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Fatal occupational injuries among non-governmental employees in Malaysia

Date of publication: January 2013

Source: American Journal of Industrial Medicine 56:65–76 (2013)

Author: Adinegara Bin Lutfi Abas, Datuk Abd. Razzak B. Mohd Said, Mohammed Azman B. Aziz
Mohammed and Nalini Sathiakumar

Synopsis:

As the surveillance of fatal occupational injuries in Malaysia was fragmented, this study was conducted using an alternative data source provided by the Malaysia's Social Security organisation, the Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO). The data consisting of 7 million employees from 2002 to 2006 were analysed. The key findings were:

- The average annual incidence rate was 9.2 fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers in Malaysia.
- There was a general decline in both the annual number and rates of fatal occupational injuries.
- The transportation sector revealed the highest incidence rate of fatal injuries, followed by agriculture and construction sectors.
- The key reason of fatal accidents in the transportation and the construction sector were falling from heights. As for the agriculture sector, the root cause was falling objects.
- Among the various ethnic groups, the Indians were more likely to sustain fatal injuries.

These findings would help the government and industry to devise relevant strategies to detect hazards in the workplace, especially in sectors with high injury rates.

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

Occupational cancer - A workplace guide

Date of publication: February 2012

Source: Guides and reports for reps, Trades Union Congress

Author: Trades Union Congress (UK)

Synopsis:

This article focuses on occupational cancers, i.e. cancers caused through exposures at work. It provided a brief definition of cancer and explains what causes it. Close to a quarter of a million people is diagnosed with cancer every year and it is estimated that this figure will rise to almost 300,000 by 2020 in the U.K. The estimates of how many of such cases are due to work may vary due to the following reasons:

- It is difficult to link a specific instance of cancer with a specific exposure to a cancer-causing substance.
- People who are killed by cancer will die either at home or hospital versus a fatality in the workplace that is very visible.
- Many cancers develop decades after the initial exposure. The time delay breaks the link with the workplace.
- Some carcinogens affect men and women differently. For male dominant workplaces, you may not identify a chemical that is more likely to cause cancer in women.

It also described the importance of the role of the safety representatives to ensure that safeguards and control measures are put in place within the workplace so that there is no exposure to cancer causing substances.

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

Fatal workplace accidents in outsourced operations in the manufacturing industry

Date of publication: December 2011

Source: Safety Science 49 (2011) 1394–1403

Author: Sanna Nenonen

Synopsis:

This paper discussed fatal workplace accidents in the Finnish manufacturing industry during the period from 1999 to 2008. The contributing factors of accidents that may differ between the outsourced and in-house operations were compared and corrective actions were proposed.

- For outsourced operations, the contributing factors were dangerous work practices, insufficient hazard identification, human error, and deficiencies in instruction and guidance. The recommended corrective actions include proper occupational instruction and guidance, sufficient hazard identification, the utilisation of safe work practices, sufficient supervision and task planning.
- For in-house operations, the contributing factors were dangerous work practices, insufficient safety devices, machine malfunction, human error and ignorance of rules and instructions. The recommended corrective actions were largely the same as for outsourced operations.
- Only indicative differences were seen for occupational instruction and guidance and task planning, as both measures were mentioned more frequently in the accident review reports for outsourced operations.

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

Electrical risks at the workplace

Date of publication: October 2012

Source: Fact sheets, Safe Work Australia

Author: Safe Work Australia

Synopsis:

This fact sheet serves as a reference on general guidance for persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) and workers on managing electrical risks at the workplace. Key electrical hazards include:

- contact with exposed live parts
- faults which could cause fires
- fire or explosion where electricity could be the source of ignition in a potentially flammable or explosive atmosphere

It explains the responsibility of stakeholders and provides a list of the risk control measures with procedures for inspections and testing.

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

Other Useful Resources:

- [Working Safely with Electrical Equipment](#) (Workplace Safety and Health Council)
- [Safe Electrical Maintenance Work](#) (Workplace Safety and Health Council)