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## **SPOTLIGHT**

### **Workplace Safety and Health Report, 2013**

Singapore's workplace fatal injury rate remained at 2.1 per 100,000 employed persons in 2013, the same rate as in 2012. However, the number of workplace minor injuries has increased by about 10% each year for the last two years.

You may access the [detailed statistics report](#) and its [visual overview](#) via the WSH Institute website.

# At a glance!

## 2013 Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Statistics



### 59 Fatal Injuries

- This works out to a workplace fatal injury rate of 2.1 per 100,000 employed persons.
- If work-related traffic fatal injuries are included, the overall number of fatally injured workers rises to 73, or 2.3 workers fatally injured for every 100,000 employed persons.

#### Which sector saw the most fatalities and what are the common causes?



- **Construction** remained the sector with the most fatal injuries. The sector saw 33 fatal injuries, up from 26 in 2012. This led to a rise in the sector's fatal injury rate from 5.9 per 100,000 employed persons in 2012 to 7.0 per 100,000 employed persons in 2013.
- **Falls** (includes falls from heights, and slips, trips and falls) remained the leading incident type, accounting for 29% of total fatal injuries. 79% of fatal injuries due to falls from heights occurred at physical workplaces involving structures, roofs and formwork.
- **Accidents** arising from the collapse or failure of structure and equipment are an emerging issue, as seen in the increase from 4 fatal injuries in 2012 to 10 in 2013.

### 14 Work-Related Traffic Fatal Injuries

- **Transportation and storage** was the sector with the most work-related traffic fatal injuries (36%) .

#### Did most work-related traffic accidents involve large industrial vehicles?

- **No!** On the contrary, motorcycles were most common vehicle involved in work-related traffic fatal injuries with 6 cases (43%).



#### Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. Working safer: A blueprint for health and safety at work
2. Leadership and occupational safety and health (OSH): An expert analysis
3. Zero injuries, waste and harm
4. Prevention of Heat Stress Disorders in the Workplace

#### Working safer: A blueprint for health and safety at work

**Date of publication:** August 2013

**Source:** New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment

**Author:** New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment

**Synopsis:**

This document outlines the New Zealand Government's plan to improve New Zealand's workplace health and safety system with the involvement and support of businesses and workers. They set an ambitious target of at least a 25 percent reduction in workplace injuries and fatalities by 2020.

The report indicated that too many people are being harmed and killed while at work in New Zealand. Each year, about 75 people are killed at work and there are conservative estimates of 600 to 900 deaths from work-related diseases such as asbestosis and various cancers. Around one in 10 workers are harmed each year, with about 200,000 accident claims for costs associated with work-related injuries and illnesses.

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

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**Leadership and occupational safety and health (OSH): An expert analysis**

**Date of publication:** October 2012

**Source:** Publications, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

**Author:** European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

**Synopsis:**

This report examines how good leadership practices can promote better occupational safety and health behaviour (OSH) amongst employees. It considers the necessary corporate leadership factors that lead to success by reviewing existing literature on OSH leadership.

16 detailed case studies from companies across the EU highlighting good practice, the type of activities that deliver achievements, innovative approaches, success factors and the role of stakeholders were examined. The study also offers recommendations for improving OSH leadership.

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

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**Zero injuries, waste and harm**

**Date of publication:** March 2014

**Source:** Strategy+Business

**Author:** Richard Westlake

**Synopsis:**

Health, safety and environment (HSE) has become an increasingly visible part of the corporate agenda over the past 20 years. Many industrial companies that have historically been at risk of workplace incidents or environmental damage now set public goals of zero injuries and no environmental harm.

This article outlines how AkzoNobel, a leading manufacturer, is making its health, safety and environment procedures stronger by making them more consistent. AkzoNobel's push to eliminate all worker injuries and become a leader in safety and environmental performance relies on five central elements: transparency; behaviour-based safety; process safety management; management of priority substances; and embedding of safety practices in the company's culture.

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

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**Prevention of Heat Stress Disorders in the Workplace**

**Date of publication:** May/ June 2013

**Source:** JMAJ, May / June 2013 — Vol. 56, No. 3

**Author:** Seichi Horie

**Synopsis:**

This study reports that the intensive summer heat in Japan led to the death of 47 workers due to heat stroke in 2010. The complex risk of heat stroke in the workplace can be categorised into four principal causes: physical labour; hot and humid environment; long hours of work and short break times; and protective clothing. The most frequent type of work that led to heat stroke was construction of buildings, civil engineering, gardening, demolition and roadwork. The study suggests that heat stroke in the workplace can be prevented by improving the work environment and methods; intake of water and sodium; and ensuring that workers wear appropriate protective clothing.

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

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**Other Useful Resources:**

- [Twelve ideas to improve your safety programmes](#) (Industrial safety and hygiene news)
- [Nine award-winning safety ideas](#) (Safety BLR)
- [5 Safety measures every construction worker must take](#) (OHS Online)
- [Hidden dangers](#) (Work Safe Magazine)
- [Heart disease, arthritis, diabetes raise risk of leaving workforce](#) (Institute for Work & Health)
- [Warehouse ergonomics/ tips and techniques to decrease injury risk](#) (EHS Today)