

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.

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WSH Leadership – Understanding the Leaders' Perspective

Date of Publication: July 2012

Source: Workplace Safety and Health Institute, Singapore

Synopsis:

The Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute embarked on a WSH Leadership project with the following objectives: (i) to understand C-suite executives' motivations and challenges in WSH Leadership, (ii) to identify perception gaps between C-suite executives' views on WSH Leadership versus their employees' expectation, and (iii) to gather feedback and views on the WSH Institute's role in strengthening WSH Leadership capabilities in Singapore. This project involved one-to-one interviews with 19 C-suite leaders and focus group discussions with 60 middle management representatives from large-sized companies. The C-suite leaders interviewed in this project cited that their main motivator for addressing WSH risks in the workplace is their fundamental concern for their people. Engaging the "hearts and minds" of the line managers, workers, contractors and sub-contractors across all industries was identified as a key challenge for Singapore.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

A Need to Broaden Our Perspective to Address Workers' Health Effectively in the 21st Century

Date of Publication: April 2012

Source: Industrial Health, Vol. 50, Issue 2, Pages 71-72

Author: Evelyn Kortum

Synopsis:

Globalization has changed the world of work, with significant impact on the health and well being of workers, their families, communities and nation as a whole. In order to tackle rising issues such as poverty, job insecurities and sub standard working conditions, the author stated that key employment and social challenges needed to be addressed. The Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Workers Health 2008-2017 developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) was to protect and promote workers' health in the present and future. The GPA showed that the protection and promotion of workers' health is moving towards a public health approach. The GPA looks into many aspects of workers' health, including primary prevention of occupational hazards, protection and promotion of health at work, creating a better health response system, building solid evidence base and benefits from focused international networking, with workers and employers participating in the process. The WHO healthy workplace initiative is one way towards achieving the aim of creating workplaces which are not detrimental to health and well-being. It is a comprehensive approach to workplace health promotion and protection, suitable for all sizes of workplaces.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

The Costs of Work-related Injury and Illness for Australian Employers, Workers and the Community: 2008-09

Date of Publication: March 2012

Source: Safe Work Australia

Synopsis:

Safe Work Australia estimated that the costs of work-related injury and illness amount to 60.6 billion AUD (4.8% GDP) in the 2008-09 financial year. In this study, a number of changes were made to enhance their previous analysis carried out in 2005-2006. The refinements included: (i) a re-evaluation of the number of permanent cases to include only those work-related incidents which resulted in the worker being unable to return to work in any capacity, and (ii) a re-estimation of disease morbidity which had been underestimated in the workers' compensation statistics. This study uses an "ex-post" approach to measure costs for a case after it has occurred. The cost estimation methodology is based on the concept of "human cost" in work-related injury and illness. Only costs associated with actual injuries were included in the framework.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Economic Burden of Occupational Injury and Illness in the United States

Date of Publication: December 2011

Source: Milbank Quarterly, Vol. 89, Issue 4, Pages 728-772

Author: J. Paul Leigh

Synopsis:

The national cost of occupational injuries and diseases for USA was estimated in this study to be 250 billion USD (1.8% GDP). Leigh commented that the medical and indirect costs of occupational injuries and illnesses are greater than generally assumed. However, occupational injuries and illnesses had not been receiving much research attention and the national investment in addressing occupational illnesses and injuries is far less than for many other diseases with lower economic burden.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Occupational Safety and Health in the USA: Now and the Future

Date of Publication: January 2012

Source: Industrial Health, Vol. 50, Issue 2, Pages 80-83

Author: John Howard, Frank Hearl

Synopsis:

This paper describes the current efforts undertaken in USA to improve the standards adoption process for the protection of workers from emerging hazards like nanotechnology. NIOSH has developed guidance to protect nanotechnology workers, including "Approaches to Safe Nanotechnology: Managing the Health and Safety Concerns Associated with Engineered Nanomaterials" and a draft document entitled "Current Intelligence Bulletin: Occupational Exposure to Carbon Nanotubes and Nanofibers". In addition, new strategies like Prevention through Design and Total Worker Health were introduced and adopted to prevent work-related injury and illness, and to improve worker's health and well being.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Other Useful Links:

- Randomized Government Safety Inspections Reduce Worker Injuries with No Detectable Job Loss ([pay site](#))
- Information Document for Selecting Gloves for Protection Against Mechanical Hazards
- The Business of Safety Survey 2011