

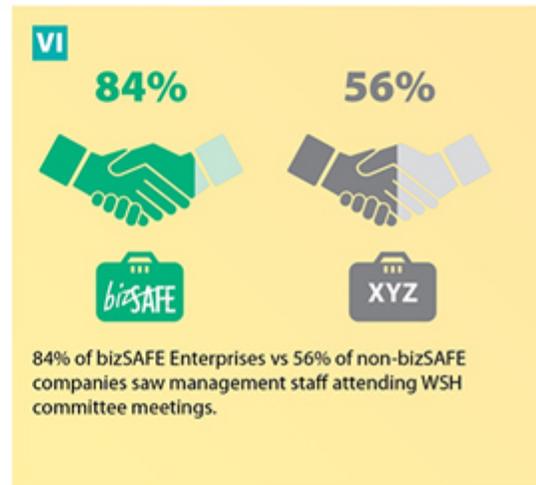
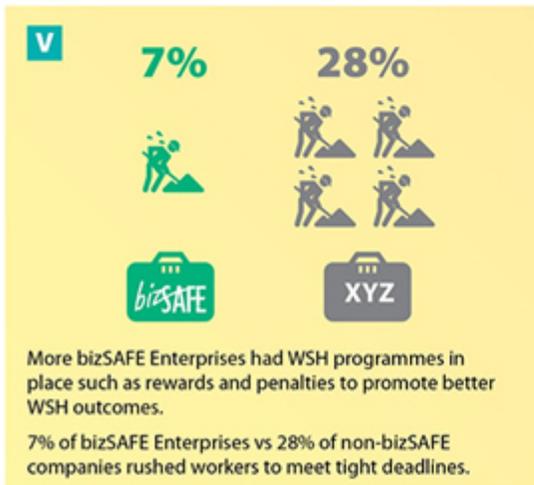
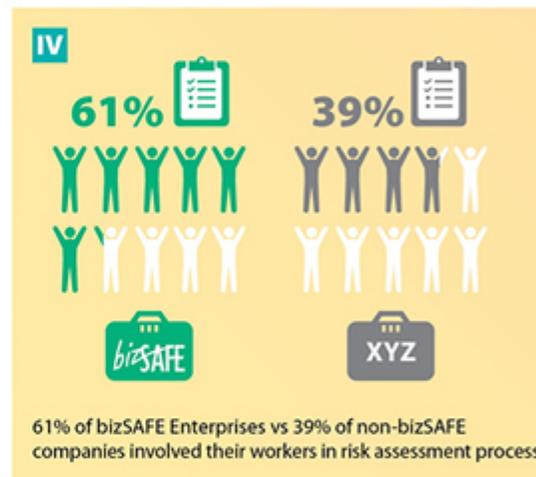
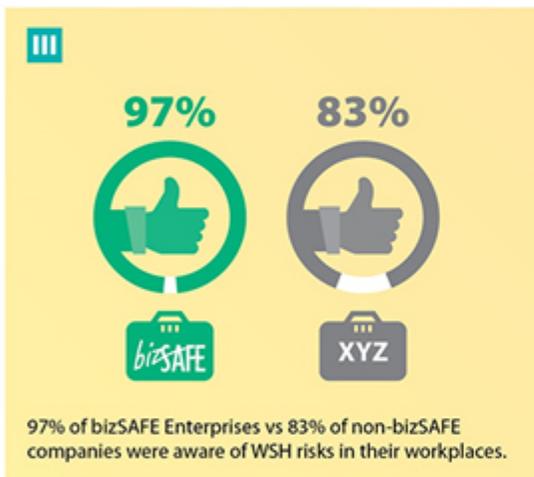
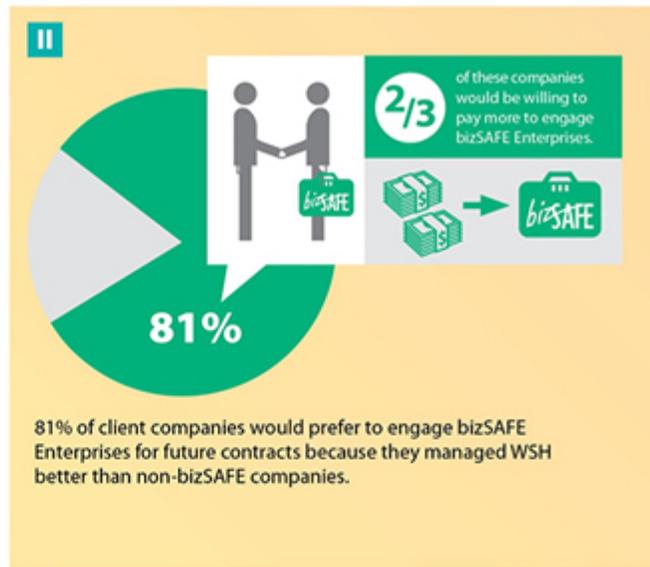
OWLinks is brought to you by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute to enable leaders and professionals to keep abreast of the latest WSH developments and trends from around the world.

SPOTLIGHT

Key Findings of Study on the BizSAFE Programme unveiled during bizSAFE Convention 2014

Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Institute conducted a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the bizSAFE programme. More than 1,600 companies covering bizSAFE and non-bizSAFE enterprises, as well as their clients, were interviewed.

The study revealed that bizSAFE Enterprises performed better than non-bizSAFE companies in terms of building capability in managing WSH risks and demonstrating commitment towards WSH. The client companies saw value in engaging bizSAFE Enterprises and indicated higher willingness to pay more for their services.



A copy of the presentation and factsheet can be downloaded from WSH Institute website [here](#).

Articles Reviewed In This Issue:

1. Better balance between workplace safety and health
2. Work-relatedness of low back pain in nursing personnel: A systematic review
3. Situation awareness approach to construction safety management improvement
4. Workplace safety and health profiles of occupations with green technology jobs

Better balance between workplace safety and health

Date of publication: December 2013

Source: Asian-Pacific Newsletter on occupational health and safety, Volume 20, Number 3

Author: Yee Shiyu, Esther Chong, Jukka Takala

Synopsis:

This article emphasized the need to provide balanced treatment to protective, preventive and promotional measures to improve workers' workplace safety and health.

Using attributable fractions to measure the component of illnesses and fatalities related to work, a total of 1,388 cases of work related fatalities were estimated for Singapore in 2008. Of these, 62%, 22% and 4% were attributed to cancer, circulatory diseases and accidents and violence respectively. This highlights the importance of improving workplace health.

About 140,000 metric tons of asbestos were imported and used in Singapore between 1960 – 2003 and the symptoms of the diseases due to asbestos exposure will only become apparent decades later. Studies had shown that an average of 170 tons of asbestos can kill an individual through mesothelioma and 2–10 people through lung cancer. Thus, Singapore needs to address these potential risks and be prepared for its potential health impact.

While resources and efforts will still need to be allocated to prevent work-related accidents, there is a need to strike a balance between workplace safety and workplace health.

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

Work-relatedness of low back pain in nursing personnel: A systematic review

Date of publication: 2013

Source: International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health (2013). Vol 19. No. 3. 223-244

Author: Annalee Yassi, Karen Lockhart

Synopsis:

This paper examined the evidence for low back pain or back injury that is associated with nursing personnel performing nursing activities (i.e. patient handling such as lifting, shifting or supporting patients manually, lifting, carrying, pushing heavy objects) and excluded roles that were strictly administrative. 89 studies (1980 – 2012) were reviewed.

The authors applied the Bradford Hill's guidelines for assessing causality to the body of information reviewed – strength of association, consistency, specificity, temporality, biological gradient, plausibility, coherence, experiment and analogy. They found risk estimates of 1.2 to 5.5 varying with different definitions of exposures, with patient handling presenting the highest associated risk for developing low back pain and/or back injury.

Overall, the studies showed that nursing activities resulted in an increased risk of back disorders, regardless of nursing techniques, personal characteristics and non-work-related factors. The paper presented a convincing argument for the recognition of low back pain as a work-related ill-health for nurses who have been performing patient caring duties.

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

Situation awareness approach to construction safety management improvement

Date of publication: September 2010

Source: In: Egbu, C. (Ed) Proceedings of the 26th Annual ARCOM Conference 6-8 September 2010, Leeds, UK, Association of Researchers in Construction Management, 311-318

Author: Masoud Gheisari, Javier Irizarry, and Diana B. Horn

Synopsis:

Situational awareness (SA) is having awareness about what is happening around in order to make current and future decisions based on that information. SA is widely used in military, weather forecasting, driving, etc. The purpose of this study was to provide a conceptual model for applying SA to construction safety management. Goal Directed Cognitive Task Analysis (GDTA) technique was used to identify individuals' needs and tasks in the team, their interaction with one another to meet common goals and their information needs to perform the tasks.

To achieve the safety manager's main goal of providing a safe work site, the questions to answer, the information and SA requirements needed in order to make the decisions were identified for three sub-goals of performing inspections for hazards on work sites, providing training for parties working on work site and managing of accidents.

This hierarchical SA can potentially improve the ambient awareness of safety managers in the complex and dynamic environment of construction work sites by identifying critical information and requirements for decision-making.

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

Workplace safety and health profiles of occupations with green technology jobs

Date of publication: January 2013

Source: Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States

Author: Aaron Parrott and William Wiatrowski

Synopsis:

The United States' Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducted the BLS Green Technologies and Practises (GTP) survey to identify establishments that use green technologies and practices, and within these establishments, the occupations of workers who spend more than half of their time in such technologies and practices. These occupations were then matched against the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) to provide a comprehensive occupational safety and health profile for these occupations.

Workers were considered to be involved in green technologies and practices if they were doing either researching, developing, maintaining, using or installing technologies or practices to lessen the environmental impact of their establishment; or training the establishment's workers in green technologies and practices.

The analysis identified occupations in 2011 with the largest number of green technologies and practices jobs, their work fatality rate, rate of days-away-from-work and the median days away from work for occupational injuries and illnesses for private sector workers. Labourers and hand movers of freight, stock, and material had both the highest count and rate of injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work. Most of these injuries resulted from contact with objects and equipment, such as being struck by, struck against or caught in an object or equipment, with 1 in 4 being associated with containers.

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

Other Useful Resources:

- [Involving young workers in OSH](#) (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work)
- [The Scooter Group – A case study on restructuring safety](#) (Workplace Health and Safety Queensland)