

Issue 68 (May 2019)

Spotlight

MOM-TARIPH Joint Symposium

MOM collaborated with The Academic Respiratory Initiative for Pulmonary Health (TARIPH) from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, NTU to organise a symposium on lung health of workers. The objective was to build competency of the medical community and WSH professionals on lung health. The symposium on 10 May 2019 was attended by over 200 participants.



Click [here](#) for more details.

What's Trending

Using technology to measure fatigue at work

A three-year study by the American Society of Safety Professionals had identified behavioural changes of workers who suffered from fatigue at work. It also showed how meaningful data could be collected in a cost-effective and unobtrusive manner. This would help employers to uncover underlying problems and establish suitable safety interventions.



(Source: IndustryWeek, Jan 2019)

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Relevance: Fatigue remains a hidden danger at



the workplace. Knowing where, when and how fatigue can impact safety outcomes is paramount in identifying appropriate solutions.

Safety and health at the heart of the future of work

The world of work is undergoing profound changes – new technology, shifting demographics, climate change, green economy and evolving patterns of employment and work organisation. All these changes are creating new challenges as well as opportunities for the occupational safety and health (OSH) of workers. It is important for governments, employers, workers, and social partners to work in partnership to address these emerging safety and health concerns.



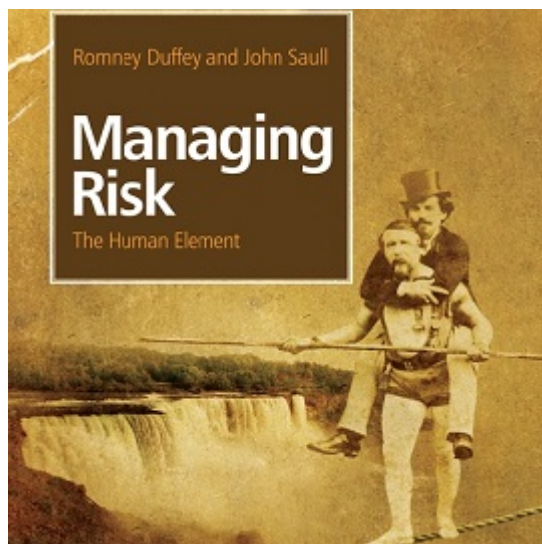
(Source: ILO, Apr 2019)

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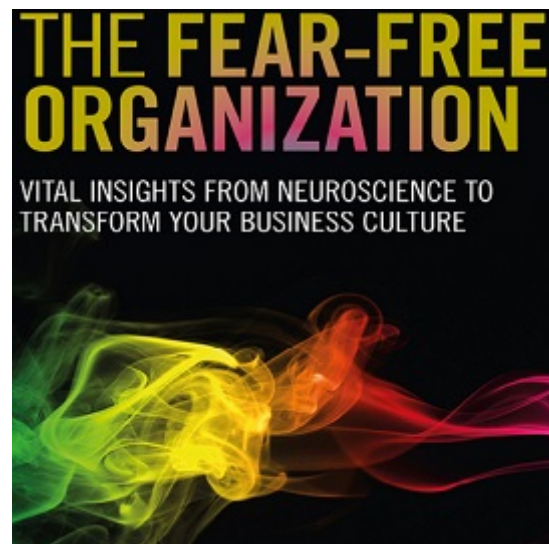


Relevance: The adoption of new technologies and changes in work organization affects the working conditions and health and safety of workers. As such, anticipating the new OSH risks, is a crucial first step to manage and build a preventive OSH culture in the future of work.

Books from the WSH Institute Collection*



TITLE:



TITLE:

Managing Risk

AUTHOR:

R. Duffey and J. Saul

AREA OF INTEREST:

Risk management

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The Fear-free Organization

AUTHOR:

P. Brown and J. Kingsley

AREA OF INTEREST:

Safety Culture

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* The WSH Institute Collection is a compilation of WSH-related resources accessible to the public through our collaboration with the National Library Board (NLB).

OWL Highlights

Workplace diesel exhausts and gasoline exposure and risk of colorectal cancer in four Nordic countries

Diesel and gasoline are widely used in combustion engines and their emissions contain a variety of carcinogenic substances. This study aimed to assess the effect of workplace diesel exhaust and gasoline exposures on the risk of colorectal cancer. Involving more than 290,000 colon and rectal cancer cases diagnosed between 1961 and 2005 in the Nordic countries, increased risk of rectal cancer was observed for workplace diesel exhaust exposure. However, no association was found between the overall gasoline exposure and colorectal cancer risk.



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Theme: Occupational Cancer
Date of Publication: January 2019
Source: Safety and Health at Work

Working at heights: Why the risks

of occupational accidents still fall on deaf ears

In the United States, falls from height continue to be the leading cause of workplace fatalities, contributing to 35% of the country's occupational deaths. Fall protection was the most frequently-cited violation, suggesting the lapse in managing and prioritising risk of falling from heights and the lack of a solution to prevent such incidents.

Effective fall protection will depend on an informed choice of equipment and knowledge to safeguard oneself and others from potential hazards. It comprises a two-step process:

1. technical support from tools and machinery that can shield and protect in dangerous situations; and
2. human support covering comprehensive training, instructions and guidance.

Failing either steps would likely lead to dangerous working conditions on the site.

Companies will not inculcate a safety culture if safety issues are only tackled at the senior management level. Workers need to be involved in the discussion to help reduce accidents in the workplace.



[Read More](#)

Theme: Working at Heights
Date of Publication: March 2019
Source: EHS Today

Exploring the potential use of near-miss information to improve construction safety performance

Near misses refer to narrowly avoided incidents that did not result in any injuries. Despite having the potential to result in accidents with serious consequences, near misses are often neglected by both workers and managers at construction sites.



This study highlighted the importance of near miss data and documented the process of collecting and analysing near miss data. It proposed an eight-stage process comprising: discovery, reporting, identification, prioritisation, causal analysis, solution, dissemination, and evaluation. It also highlighted the role of key stakeholders such as safety managers, safety experts, safety officers, and general workers in the management of near misses.

The study concluded with a case study to demonstrate how near miss information could be used proactively to combat safety issues in a construction setting.



[Read More](#)

Theme: Construction Safety
Date of Publication: February 2019
Source: Sustainability

How technology can support behavioural safety in the manufacturing industry

We all have bad habits and changing behaviour is difficult. Hence, having a strong safety culture which guides day-to-day behaviours, is essential to ensure protection and safety at work. A behavioural safety program (BSP) establishes such a strong safety culture by using psychology to change attitude, values, beliefs and behaviours so that health and safety is adopted by every worker, and not just safety officers.

Technology augments this process by making it easier for employees to report hazards, record incidents and create risk assessments. It also avails them the relevant information they need to work safely. Such technology-enabled safety reporting and management will ensure safer workplaces, better compliance and more controlled costs, especially for higher risk and faster paced industries such as Manufacturing.



[Read More](#)



Theme: Technology, Behavioural
Safety
Date of Publication: January 2019
Source: Manufacturing Global

Useful Resources

- [Nudging construction workers towards better sun safety behavior](#) (IOSH, Mar 2019)
- [Deaths and injuries involving elevators or escalators in construction and the general population](#) (CPWR Quarterly, Mar 2019)
- [Sustainable return to work: A systematic review focusing on personal and social factors](#) (Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation, Mar 2019)
- [Boomers with and without chronic conditions have similar needs for workplace supports](#) (Institute for Work & Health, Mar 2019)
- [Long work hours, weekend working and depressive symptoms in men and women: Findings from a UK population-based study](#) (Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, Mar 2019)

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Vision: A Healthy Workforce in a Safe Workplace.
Mission: Provide evidence-based, insightful and practical solutions.

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