

Issue 70 (September 2019)

Spotlight

Healthy Use of New Display Screen Equipment (HEADSE) study

WSH Institute collaborated with the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM), Singapore and Synergo Consulting to conduct a study on Healthy Use of New Display Screen Equipment (HEADSE). The research aimed to identify potential health and safety issues associated with using mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Until now, most of the studies conducted were on the potential health and safety problems associated with conventional computer technology, e.g. desktop. To find out how the use of smartphones and tablets may affect you, click [here](#).



What's Trending

Virtual Reality Might Be the Next Big Thing for Mental Health

Since the 1990s, Virtual Reality (VR) has been used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. Today, the use of VR has been expanded to treat addiction issues, depression and anxiety disorder. VR can also potentially be used to aid diagnosis of mental health conditions such as schizophrenia and autism, and



(Source: Scientific American, Jun 2019)

provide more objective results than interview-based methods commonly used today.

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Relevance: VR has been gaining traction in WSH, particularly in the area of training and assessment. This article sheds light on using VR as a diagnostic and treatment tool. Is there a possibility that VR can be used more widely in Singapore to detect and manage workplace stress?

Hotels of the future

Manpower challenges has led to the hospitality sector in Singapore stepping up on the adoption of technology to ease workload and improve productivity. Recently, some hotels have introduced robots to their work processes. Autonomous robots transporting heavy linen, delivering amenities to guests and even performing security patrols can help towards optimising manpower resources.



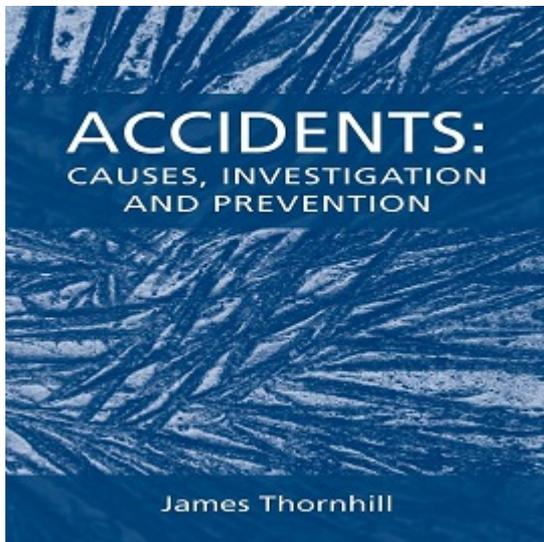
(Source: Straits Times, Aug 2019)

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Relevance: While the push for technology in the hospitality sector was primarily driven by productivity, it could also potentially reduce ergonomic and fatigue issues that may result in injuries and ill health.

Books from the WSH Institute Collection*

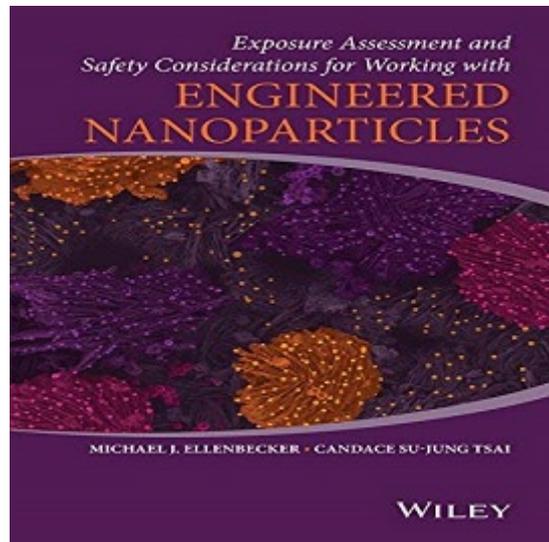


TITLE:
Accidents : causes, investigation and prevention

AUTHOR:
James Thornhill

AREA OF INTEREST:
Accident Prevention

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TITLE:
Exposure assessment and safety considerations for working with engineered nanoparticles

AUTHOR:
Michael J. Ellenbecker & Candace Su-Jung Tsai

AREA OF INTEREST:
Nanotechnology

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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

The occupational burden of non-malignant respiratory diseases

This literature review highlighted several respiratory conditions that were not typically considered to be work-related. Findings showed that workplace exposures contributed substantially to the burden of chronic respiratory diseases, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic bronchitis. The authors argued that there was a pressing need to identify and implement suitable preventive interventions in the workplace and



reassess regulatory standards for workers exposed to inhalational hazards.



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Theme: Occupational Diseases
Date of Publication: Jun 2019
Source: American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine

OSH and the future of work: Benefits and risks of artificial intelligence tools in workplaces

This article explored how Artificial intelligence (AI) could impact safety, health and well-being of workers.

With AI-enabled analytics, prevention of OSH risks can be tailored at the individual level. However, the over reliance on AI and analytics without appropriate human intervention and ethical considerations can also result in worker experiencing stress.

To mitigate OSH risks in the use of new technology, the author recommended prioritising workers' training and consultation before implementation.



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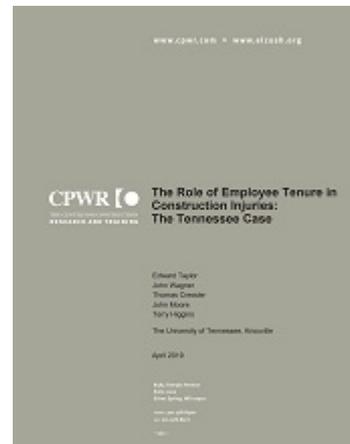
Theme: Technology
Date of Publication: Jul 2019
Source: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

The role of employee tenure in construction injuries: The Tennessee case

Analysing the data from 9,031 workers' compensation claims, this study aimed to shed light on the nature of construction injuries.

It was found that employees with one year or less in tenure made up nearly half of all reported injuries. This indicated that the early months of employment are critical in terms of safety.

The study proposed that new employee orientation is important. Specifically, the programme should highlight the injuries most likely to be suffered by new workers. Employers could also consider work modifications and review the effectiveness of personal protective equipment to better protect workers from common injuries. Finally, safety training should not be limited to new workers as experienced workers would also benefit from them as 'refreshers'.



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Theme: Construction Safety
Date of Publication: Apr 2019
Source: CPWR

Useful Resources

- [Applying machine learning to workers' compensation data to identify industry-specific ergonomic and safety priorities: Ohio, 2001 to 2011](#) (Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Jan 2018)
- [Larger workplaces, people-oriented culture, and specific industry sectors are associated with co-occurring health protection and wellness activities](#) (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Dec 2018)
- [Exploring the contributory factors of confined space accidents using accident investigation reports and semistructured interviews](#) (Safety and Health at Work, Jun 2019)
- [Dermatitis among workers in Ontario: Results from the Occupational Disease Surveillance System](#) (Occupational & Environmental Medicine, Jun 2019)
- [Association between reported long working hours and history of stroke in the CONSTANCES cohort](#) (Stroke, Jun 2019)
- [Impact of job demands and resources on nurses' burnout and occupational turnover intention towards an age-moderated mediation model for the nursing profession](#) (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Jun 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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