**One Size Does Not Fit All**

Changing workplace demographics + an emphasis on safety = concerns about PPE effectiveness for workers with various physical features. Women in the labor force, for example, can find their morale, productivity, and even safety influenced by ill-fitting work clothes and equipment. Stephanie Leonard, industrial hygienist with the University of Iowa Department of Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH), has purchased her own work clothes through catalogs. She notes that concerns can also arise with very large men or people from other cultures. She confronts challenges when fitting respirators for narrow-faced women and men (even using "Small"-sized facepieces) and also finds that many filtering facepieces and half-face respirators that are commonly available do not easily fit the broader faces of Asian workers.

safetyXchange (Women & Safety, part 2) - www.safetyxchange.org/article.php?id=123&cha_id=3  
safetyXchange (Women & Safety, part 3) - www.safetyxchange.org/article.php?id=128&cha_id=3

**2005 Work-Related Lung Disease (WoRLD) Surveillance Report Published**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has posted its updated WoRLD Report in electronic form. Summary data on occupation-related respiratory disease is presented in 16 sections covering topics like asbestosis, silicosis, asthma, COPD, and smoking prevalence by industry and occupation. Lung diseases have also been the focus of several researchers in the University of Iowa Department of OEH. Dr. Peter Thorne, who directs the Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, is investigating environmental triggers of asthma and allergy, the health effects of exposures to agricultural and industrial bioaerosols, and the mechanisms of lung inflammation. Dr. Nancy Sprince, an occupational physician, has studied lung diseases in farmers, and in workers exposed to metal working fluids and toxic metals like asbestos, beryllium, cobalt, and tungsten carbide.

NIOSH (WoRLD Surveillance Report) - www2a.cdc.gov/drds/worldreportdata

**OSHA's Top 10**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had issued 40,463 citations under 10 standards by mid-September. Nine of the “Top 10” list were the same as the previous year, with “ladders” new to the list. The top 5: Scaffolding, Hazard Communication, Fall Protection, Respiratory Protection, Lockout/Tagout.

Most Frequently Cited OSHA Standards (11+ months of FY05) - www.safetyxchange.org/article_print.php?id=131  
FY04 Most Frequently Cited OSHA Standards - www.osha.gov/dtcp/compliance_assistance/frequent_standards.html

**Labor Secretary Sees Generational Shift in Workforce**

Baby-boom retirees “are taking with them the health and safety knowledge they gained through a lifetime of work experience,” and their leaving will pose a challenge to continued progress in occupational health/safety progress, according to US Dept of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. She emphasizes the need for intensified health and safety training based on cooperation and collaboration.

DOL news release - www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20051780.htm

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UI HealthWorks is a member of the WORKSAFE IOWA Occupational Medicine Associate Network, the only university-affiliated network of occupational health providers. WORKSAFE IOWA is an outreach program of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa (www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe).