PPE Ruling

Many OSHA standards require employers to provide employees with personal protective equipment (PPE). A recent rule, which will become effective 2/13/08, requires employers to pay for PPE (with specific exceptions). The requirements address many kinds of PPE, including hard hats, safety shoes, safety glasses, welding helmets and goggles, face shields, chemical protective equipment, fall protection equipment, etc.

OSHA (Federal Register) - www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERALREGISTER&p_id=20094

Occupation-related Cancer Risk

An expert Working Group of the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 3 occupations that they conclude pose cancer risks to humans:

1) Shiftwork (probably carcinogenic) - Disruption of the circadian system seems to explain research results, with nightwork thought to be the most disruptive. Affected workers are most likely to be found in the health care, industrial, transportation, communications, and hospitality sectors.

2) Painter (is carcinogenic) - Painters are exposed to various chemical solvents, as well as asbestos and other substances; however, researchers have not yet linked specific agents with the cancers (primarily lung and bladder) they have found in this group.

3) Firefighter (possibly carcinogenic) – Firefighters can experience intense, short-term exposure to numerous toxic chemicals, including many known or suspected carcinogens.

The distinctions between “is,” “probably,” “possibly” are based on levels of scientific evidence. But the complex exposure patterns of all three occupations make it difficult to link risk with specific factors, and much more research is needed to support development of preventive measures.

A summary of these conclusions has been published in The Lancet Oncology (December 2007), and full results will be published in 2008 (as vol 98 of the IARC Monographs).


Spanish PowerPoint Presentations - Construction and General Industry

A comprehensive list of safety and health PowerPoint presentations in Spanish has been compiled by OSHA. The materials, which can assist trainers who are conducting safety outreach to Hispanic workers, emphasize hazard identification, avoidance, and control, rather than standards.

OSHA (La Prevencion de Fatalidades) - www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction_sp/index.html

Full resource list - www.consultationconnection.org/oti/

We Can Learn From M*A*S*H

Lower blood pressure, stronger immune system, higher performance levels—what wellness “program” produces these benefits? Studies say it’s laughter. Consider releasing your inner clown to handle stress (like the television character Hawkeye Pierce did), while avoiding humor that denigrates other people’s appearance, religion, sexual orientation or other personal beliefs and attributes.

David Granirer - www.granirer.com/ART-0006.htm