

Depending on the level of exposure, there is need to monitor and ensure adequacy of control measures in preventing ill health. This is done through medical surveillance programmes. It is not practical for Line Managers to memorise these programmes and comply with requirements. As a result, an automated web based system was developed to manage this.

Methods A system was developed to manage occupational health in a company with 120 employees. Consultations were done in the following departments to confirm occupational health roles and responsibilities: HR, SHEQ and Occupational Medicine. These departments had specific functions defined in the system.

Results 100% of employees were covered in the medical surveillance programmes and all were monitored on time. The system automatically tracked compliance of each employee and sent reminders to the employee, line manager or both at a predefined time. Medical records were kept for ever as compared to a defined number of years. Reports were automatically generated for the various user groups. None compliance was escalated automatically to senior management. Doctors had access to soft copy medical history, relevant records and occupational hazards per patient.

Conclusion The database was named OcHSol, meaning Occupational Health Solution. This system comprehensively manages occupational health. When using this system, employees are no longer missed for risk based medical surveillance. The database manages pre-employment, periodic, pre-placement, post incident and exit medical examinations.

945 INFLUENCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY SHOE CHARACTERISTICS ON POSTURAL STABILITY

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.910

Introduction Working conditions, such as walking and standing on hard surfaces, can increase the development of musculoskeletal complaints. At the interface between flooring and musculoskeletal system, safety shoes may play an important role in the well-being of employees. Slip, Trip and fall accidents in the industrial setting range from trivial falls to life-threatening fatalities and injuries which could be as a compromised of postural stability. Safety shoe has different characteristic features but in what way these characteristics interact with each other and influence postural stability is uncertain. The study elucidates the influence of industrial safety shoes characteristic on different stabilometric dimensions that are the indicators of postural stability. The purpose of the current study effect is to explore the contribution of specific characteristics of safety shoe used in industries along with the individual characteristics in Static and dynamic postural conditions.

Methods Twenty-five male subjects performed the task of standing and walking on the piezoelectric force platform (Kistler, Switzerland, model 9268AA) with industrial safety footwear and centre of pressure displacements parameters were investigated as measures of postural stability.

Results Multiple ANOVA results showed the significant influence of shoe characteristics (toe cap, sole of shoe, weight of the shoe and ankle type) and their interaction on the centre of pressure displacement determinants.

Conclusion The role of individual characteristics preponderate the impact of safety shoe characteristics on postural stability. This work gives a valuable insight to consideration of footwear characteristics for manufacturers and employers to put a check on Slip, Trip and Fall injuries which can improve the productive life of labour with more work efficiency.

97 HEALTH PROBLEM OF INDIAN FARMERS DUE TO EXCESSIVE HEAT EXPOSURE AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.911

Introduction India is primarily an agrarian economy as farming is one of the most important occupations in country. However numbers of studies have classified farming as a risky and hazardous job because of the nature of farm work. Farm workers are particularly at higher risk of developing health problems. The drastic change in the world wide climate has created too much problems among farmers. Most of farm operations in India are still accomplished manually under direct sunshine. These entire factors, makes farm operation quite dangerous. The exposure to hot occupational environment remains a persistent impediment to improve productivity and problems affecting health. Health problems that result from heat stress are known as heat disorders.

Methods The study was undertaken to find out the health problems experienced by farmers and to design, develop and disseminate PPE to safe guard farmers from the impact of excessive heat.

Results It was revealed that majority of farmers were working for more than 7 hours in squatting and bending position under direct sunshine which was promoting heat disorders resulting from heavy physical work leading to loss of fluid and salt resulting in heat cramp, heat exhaustion, etc.,. Prevalence of above factors is more common among farmers due to unawareness and lack of knowledge about associated heat exposure risks, leading to poor adaption of preventive and protective measures. Further, incidence of MSDs among the farmers was reported by majority. The long working hours and posture adopted resulted more in body pain/discomfort. While disseminating the PPE, the acceptability among the farm workers was reported to be very high.

Conclusion The pace with which global average temperature is rising, there arise a need to protect the outdoor workers from heat-related illnesses. Creating awareness and developing of PPE to safeguard has now become a matter of concern worldwide.

976 PROFILE OF ILLNESS AMONG WORKERS OF A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO: ANALYSIS OF ILLNESS-RELATED ABSENTEEISM

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10.1136/oemed-2018-ICOHabstracts.912

Introduction Brazilian public institutions have been passing through changes since the 90 s. These changes have included new management and work organisation methods that entail