

Wholesale and Retail Trade: NORA Sector Council Bulletin: March 2011, Volume 1, Issue 5



We are listening!

In This Issue

1. At the Applied Ergonomics Conference
2. NIOSH and Industry Updates
3. Inside the MMH Workshop Planning Committee
4. Simple Solutions and Lessons Learned

Inside the MMH Workshop Planning Committee

Lift Smart at the Right Height: Matching Solutions to Problems MMH Workshop, October 11-12, 2011, Hyatt Regency, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration Site: <http://www.eh.uc.edu/MMHworkshop>

Purpose

To develop engineering solutions for manual materials handling (MMH) jobs in Retail, Wholesale and Warehouse (RWW) industries.

The Workshop goal is to stimulate-through roundtable discussions- the wider adoption of current, effective MMH equipment, and the development of the next generation of MMH equipment for the purposes of reducing both worker fatigue from overexertion and strains/sprains, as well as improving overall productivity and efficiency.

Attendees

Industry/safety/loss prevention representatives from the RWW industries who believe there ought to be a better way of moving materials and containers in their businesses.

Manufacturers/vendors of MMH equipment who desire to partner with one or more RWW industries to discuss and develop the next generation of MMH equipment.

Practitioners/researchers who seek to partner with businesses in implementing and evaluating MMH engineering solutions.

Format

Roundtable panel discussion focusing on each of six common, but unique MMH jobs. The meeting agenda will be defined by the Tasks.

At the Applied Ergonomics Conference

Practitioners Talking with Practitioners

The 14th Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference took place March 21-24, 2011 in Orlando Florida. The conference provides a dynamic venue where professionals from around the world can gather and share best practices in ergonomics, healthcare, safety, human resources and risk management. Dr. John Howard, director of NIOSH, was a keynote speaker at the conference. Vern, who also attended the conference and had reached out to Dr. Howard to provide the keynote at the request of the Applied Ergonomic Conference (AEC) planning committee, stated the Dr. Howard's address was one of his best. Vern expanded on his observations as follows:

As expected, Dr. Howard drew a large audience. As usual, he mixed a serious message about the growing health issues of the younger (obesity diabetes) and older work populations with humor and facts. Everyone really appreciated what he had to say and it reinforced the message, which he repeated often, about the need 'to adapt the workplace to the worker population.' His point was that employers regardless of the age of the work population must consider what needs to be done to accommodate the worker capacities, regardless of age, to minimize the risk of chronic injuries/illnesses.

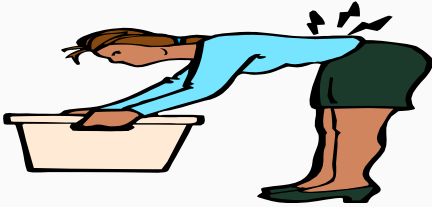
In conclusion he mentioned that NIOSH recognizes the need to develop programs to accommodate the worker population as NIOSH is currently doing with its Prevention thru Design (PtD) program and with an 'upcoming workshop which will seek to develop engineering solutions for retail workers through partnerships with engineering and retail trade associations'."

Vern and Jeff Hoyle, who is at the Center for Ergonomics of North Carolina and is an active member of the WRT sector council, gave a joint presentation at the conference. The purpose of the joint presentation was present attendees with methods for identifying high-risk WRT businesses and then to present them examples of innovative engineering solutions that would help solve such problems.

Vern kicked off the session by giving a 30-minute talk titled, "Identifying Injuries/Illnesses in the WRT Sector," followed by Jeff's 30-min presentation, which showcased three successful engineering solutions in the retail/wholesale sector. These solutions were identified from 3 demonstration studies which were funded by the NIOSH WRT sector program two years ago.

Roughly 50 people were in attendance of the session. Vern believes that the joint presentations enlightened many of the attendees about the

Simple Solution



Vignettes

Mr. Jones, who had worked at the store for over 25 years, was assisting a new employee unload a truck. Both men were struggling to pull the boxes from the top layer. The older, taller worker tried to dislodge a large box of cereal, with a quick jerk he freed the box and it dropped into his hands, as he had done many times. However, this time he “pulled something” in his back. The following is the cost and procedure history from this incident.

Original injury - **\$2,640** medical costs and no lost time

Recurrence in 2005 cost medical plus lost time **\$25,000**

Surgery/comp in 2006 cost **\$116,400** and resulted in permanent partial disability

- Additional costs of **\$84,400** in 2008 alone
- **By 2010, this 2000 back injury cost over \$300,000!**

Mr. Jones experienced an “overexertion injury.” There are numerous solutions to this problem; none of them are a quick fix type. There are “pull tools or hooks” that can be used. Perhaps, some type of ladder to stepping stool would help, but they can cause problems. Perhaps, the second person could have assisted in dislodging the box. The obvious problem was that the truck was “overloaded.” Loads do shift in transit and may have caused the box to be lodge against the truck ceiling beams.

Report Focuses on Lessons Learned to Improve Worker Safety and Health

The University of Massachusetts Lowell, Center for Sustainable Production, has released the report “Lessons Learned: Solutions for Workplace Safety and Health.” The report contains case studies of what it terms systemic failures in protecting workers from injury and illness. The publication also outlines some paths that can more effectively protect workers, the communities in which they live, consumers, and the environment, while stimulating innovation in safer forms of production. For more details, visit

<http://www.sustainableproduction.org/Lessons.php>

extent and nature of the WRT injuries/illnesses, and what types of MMH devices are needed to reduce MSDs without compromising productivity. Vern suggested that AEC sponsor a “WRT agenda track” as they do for office, manufacturing, and healthcare, etc. at next year’s Applied Ergonomics conference.

[READ MORE](#)

NIOSH and Industry Updates

Injuries, Illnesses & Fatalities in WRT, 2005: A Chartbook



The Bureau of Labor Statistics datasets for the NAICS sectors Wholesale Trade (42), and Retail Trade (44-45) were organized and formatted as a “chartbook.” The WRT Chartbook consists of more than 200 combined charts, figures, and tables, along with concise descriptive narratives and reference sources. The 2005 data served as a reference base for the development of the WRT sector goals. The Chartbook provides a snapshot of the status of occupational health in 2005 for WRT sector. Read more

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/wrt/pdfs/WRTchartbook_REV_3-31-11.pdf

NORA Symposium 2011: Achieving Impact Through Research and Partnerships

July 12-13, 2011. Hyatt Regency, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration is on-line through the link on the conference website:

<https://www.team-psa.com/NORA2011/registration1.asp>

Contact the NORA Coordinator with any questions:

noracoordinator@cdc.gov

About NIOSH: As part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NIOSH is the Federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations to prevent work-related illnesses and injuries. To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, please contact NIOSH at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348 Email: cdcinfo@cdc.gov Website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati OH 45226
513-533-8319
VAnderson@cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/niosh/DraftWRT

DISCLAIMER: The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally reviewed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.