

Did you know...?

Polypropylene Life Lines

Members are reminded that polypropylene rope is subject to rapid degradation when exposed to ultraviolet sources such as the sun. Although rope can be purchased that has ultraviolet inhibitors, it is important that all employers, supervisors and workers check the condition of polypropylene rope regularly to ensure that it is capable of withstanding the potential loads that may be applied to it.

Although polypropylene rope is not "banned" from use in construction or window cleaning or as a lifeline, the Ministry of Labour recommends that alternate materials be considered as a way of reducing the uncertainty of the internal condition of ultraviolet exposed lifeline.

Did you know...?

The following Syndromes or Diseases are listed in a medical journal, (for example, the New England Medical Journal). We hope they don't start showing up on our jobsites!

Dog Walkers' Elbow: Go-dog-go! This is the pain caused by constant tension and tugs from a dog leash.

Espresso Wrist: This is wrist pain in espresso coffee-machine operators from strong wrist motions required in making the coffee.

Foreign Language Syndrome: This is when someone awakens from an injury speaking with a foreign accent even though they have never visited or lived in the country where the accent is from.

Jazz Ballet Bottom: These are painful abscesses suffered by dancers who frequently spin on their bottoms.

Nun's Knee: This is a painful swelling of the kneecap from repeated kneeling in prayer.

Retired Husband Syndrome (from the *Western Journal of Medicine*): This is the tension, headaches, depression, and anxiety that is felt by women whose husbands have just retired.

Wiiitis: pronounced "wee-eye-tis." This is the latest ailment to develop from video games, starting with the 1981 condition Space Invaders' wrist, which was caused by the repeated button-pushing required by the popular arcade game. Wiiitis has now been seen in a number of patients who play tennis with the new Nintendo video console Wii.

- thanks to "Richard Hawk Inc. & www.makesafetyfun.com

Did you know ...?

Fatalities and Criticals

	2007 (January 1 – December 31)	2006 (comparison with same time period last year)
Fatalities	16	27
Criticals	195	208

Impact of Age of Worker

Current Year 2008	2006 Year	
6.2%	11%	Of Fatalities involved young workers aged 15 – 24 years
12.5%	15%	Of Fatalities involved workers aged 25 – 34 years
25%	22%	Of Fatalities involved workers aged 35 – 44 years
31.3%	30%	Of Fatalities involved workers aged 45 – 54 years
12.5%	15%	Of Fatalities involved workers aged 55 – 64 years
12.5%	7%	Of Fatalities involved workers aged 65 years or older

Early indications suggest fewer younger workers <34 years of age are being killed while older workers are at an increased risk, but further analysis must be done.

Impact of Construction Sector:

19% of fatalities involved Low Rise Residential
25% of fatalities involved ICI sector
6% of fatalities involved Excavation and Grading
13% of fatalities involved Highway and Road Construction
0% of fatalities involved Heavy Civil Sector
0% of fatalities involved Window Cleaning Sector

13% of fatalities involved High Rise Residential
6% of fatalities involved Asbestos Removal Projects
6% of fatalities involved workers repairing equipment on site
6% of fatalities involved roofers
6% of fatalities involved electricians

Type of Hazard:

31% of fatalities involved Operation of Equipment
31% of fatalities involved Falls
13% of fatalities involved Electrical Hazards
13% of fatalities involved collapse of scaffolds or work platforms

6% of fatalities involved failure of a piece of equipment
13% of fatalities involved workers not wearing a seatbelt

Although the number of workers dying from falls is lower for a second straight year, the number of workers critically injured by falls remains at over 50%. Continued diligence is required to ensure workers are trained to work safely at heights and use the appropriate fall protection systems correctly.