

# 2004 Newsletter

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- **OSH Statistics**

- Ministry of Labor, Accident rate as of the end of June 2004 0.42%
  - Reduced by 6.7% compared with the same period of 2003 –

**Industrial accidents this year indicated continued decrease trends owing to the aggressive accident prevention activities carried out by the Ministry of Labor including the imposition on sanctions upon work places having high rate of accidents or critical accidents.**

**According to the announcement made by the Ministry of Labor July 26, the number of casualties related to industrial accidents as of the end of June this year stood at 43,278, a decrease by 3,387 (7.3%) compared with that of the year before (46,665).**

**The accident rate on the other hand was 0.42%, a level indicating a reduction by 0.03% (6.7%) compared with that of the same period of the year before, 0.45%. The number of fatalities was 1,393, indicating a decrease by 89 (6.0%) compared with that of the same period of the year 2003, 1,482.**

**Breaking down by type of business, the number of casualties in the manufacturing industry showed 18,387, the highest percentage (42%) of the entire industries, followed by the construction industry (9,199 casualties [21%]), transportation, warehousing and communications industries (2,548 casualties), and mining industry (1,268 casualties). This indicates that, with the exception of the mining industry, most industries showed reduced number of accidents.**

**The number of casualties at the work places with employees numbering less than 50 was 29,254 or 67.6% of the entire casualties, of which the number of fatalities accounted for 750 or 53.8% of the total fatalities, indicating that still small work places had most of the accidents. In the case of work places with employees numbering less than 5 in particular, the number of casualties accounted for 21.4% of the entire casualties, while the number of fatalities was 17.4% of the total fatalities.**

**On the other hand, the economic losses resulting from accidents stood at approximately 6.8 trillion won, an increase by approximately 1 trillion compared with that of the year 2003, 5.8 trillion won.**

(Daily Safety News, July 8, 2004)

- **Main OSH Policy**

- Preparation of National Crisis Management Manual Four steps early warning system introduced in 30 sectors including security and disasters

**In the future the concept of national crisis will be expanded to the key national infrastructures including energy, information and communications and other accidents from the traditional security sector which will be managed by the Standard Manual. Under this Integrated Crisis Management System, four steps early warning system will be introduced depending on the types of crisis.**

**The National Security Council (NSC) disclosed on September 8 that it will prepare 'Basic Guidelines for National Crisis Management' based on above and 30 kinds of 'Standard Crisis Management Manual' for gradual implementation.**

**The National Security Council in its 'Basic Guidelines for National Crisis Management' established by the Presidential Directives has expanded the national crisis from the existing traditional security concept to the comprehensive security one. In its Standard Crisis Management Manual, NSC has divided the types of crisis into 3 categories: traditional security sectors (11 types), disasters (11 types) and key national infrastructure(8 types) and 30 sectors.**

**In the traditional security sectors, the Standard Crisis Management Manual prescribes △ contingencies involving the North Korea's nuclear issue △ accidental collision between the North and the South in the Northern Limit Line (NLL) of the West Sea △ contingencies that might occur during the process of constructing and/or operating the Gaeseong Industrial Complex △ situation where the Presidential power is void such as the 10/26 and 5/16 military coup de' tat and △ the measures taken by the government and its agencies against domestic and overseas terrorist activities. The crisis management manual also covers disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, large accidents involving high-speed railroad systems and animal diseases and the key national infrastructures such as the supply of water and the crude oil, financial computer systems and Cyber safety.**

**The National Security Council has introduced a four steps early warning system : Attention (Blue) - > Caution (Yellow) -> Watch (Orange) -> Serious (Red) depending on the types of crisis for more effective actions on each stage.**

**"In order to cope with the national crisis effectively, a comprehensive and standardized countering**

system has been established laying a foundation for the systemized control of crisis," said Lee Jong-seok, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council. "As a result of this, each ministry will develop manuals to counter crisis more practically."

"This Crisis Management System has been established for the first time since the Government was founded," stated Ryu Hui-in, Head of the Crisis Management Center of NSC. "In addition to the 30 manuals already established, 2 more standard manuals will be added including one for the troops dispatched overseas."

(Hankyoreh September 9, 2004)

- **Update in KOREA**

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training sought for the students and the public

The National Emergency Management Agency disclosed on September 17 that it plans to conduct training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation(CPR) for the students and the public under cooperation with related institutions. This is due to the fact that since the number of patients suffering from heart diseases rapidly increased recently, the Agency believed that it was urgent to educate all people on CPR.

As part of the program, the National Emergency Management Agency plans to train its employees first on the 21st of the month at the Central Government Office Building. During October, the Agency plans to train government employees of the Central Government Office and the Gwacheon city Government Complex, gradually expanding the program to the government employees at smaller government offices.

Through discussion with the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development, the Agency intends to train students during physical education at each school. In addition, the Agency plans to request cooperation from the National Police Agency to provide training on emergency aid including CPR to the general public during driver license training.

According to the National Emergency Management Agency, the number of patients suffering from heart diseases has rapidly increased recently to 1,840,000 or an increase by 52% compared with that of 2000; however, the ability of the public including government employees to perform CPR is extremely low compared with that of other advanced countries.

The Agency stressed that it is urgent to increase the ability of the people to perform emergency treatment because the rival rate is 75% if CPR is performed within 3 minutes after the cardiac rhythm has stopped while the rival rate is only 25% if 5 minutes have elapsed after the cardiac

**rhythm has stopped.**

**CPR is performed to supply oxygen essential for the survival of cells by sending blood to the vital organs such as the brain, heart or lung. This is done by performing artificial respiration and applying pressure on the chest for those whose cardiac rhythm or breathing have stopped.**

**(Daily Safety News, September 2004)**

- Seminar on the safety of chemical protective clothing materials to be held

**The organic compound protective clothing will be added to the list of protective equipment subject to certification starting next year. In connection with this, a technical seminar on safety and protective textile materials will be held for the first time while interest in the regulations related to the protective equipment and the approval of importers and in the production technologies is increasing.**

**The Korea Apparel Testing and Research Institute (KATRI) disclosed recently that it will host a 'Technical seminar on safety and protective textile material industry' on October 26 at the conference room of the Seoul Textile Center to induce technology development by the manufacturers of protective equipment such as the heatproof clothing and chemical protective clothing and to support production of the products.**

**This seminar scheduled to be held under the co-sponsorship of the Korea Protective Equipment Association, Korea Federation of Textile Industries and the Seoul National University Fashion Textile Center(FTC) will ? deliver information on the technology trends of the safety protective textile industry to related makers; ? strengthen manpower exchanges in the safety protective textile sectors, and ? provide descriptions on the trends of related sectors in overseas and the CE Mark system. The theme of this seminar includes the trends of developing protective clothing using hi-tech science; trends of the ISO standardization in the protective clothing sector; Kinds and the characteristics of the textiles used for protective clothing; examination of the method of processing the breathable and waterproof fabric and the CBR(chemical, biological and radiological) protective clothing; characteristics of the protective clothing used by the military units; Ministry of Labor's information on protective clothing and the roles of the protective clothing in relation to working environments.**

**In addition, SATRA of Britain and Seiko Chemical of Japan will present papers on ? CE mark system with respect to the private protective equipment in Europe and required performance and ? on the evaluation of the cleanliness and the amenity of the functional materials used on urethane apparels.**

- Ministry of Construction and Transportation strengthens the safety device of automatic revolving doors
  - Newly prescribes rpm and rotation radius -

The Ministry of Construction and Transportation disclosed on July 7 that it has drafted an amendment on the 'Regulation on the standards of the building escape and fire-fighting structures'. This is to strengthen safety devices since accidents resulting from automatic revolving doors have occurred frequently recently.

The proposed amendment will enter into force starting October after examined by the Regulatory Reform Committee and the Ministry of Government Legislation. The proposed amendment includes a new clause which controls the speed of the door to reduce safety hazards by preventing the door from rotating too fast. The amendment requires the rpm not to exceed 10 regardless of the size or types of the automatic revolving doors in case new automatic revolving doors are installed. The amendment also made it compulsory to make the radius of rotation from the central axis of the revolving door to the edge of the wing of the door to be at least 140cm.

This will provide a minimum space for an adult to enter the door with a child. Up to now, the radius of rotation of the revolving doors has been 90~100 cm at average and if an adult uses the door together with a child, the child or the adult is often caught by the door due to narrow space. The amendment also made it compulsory to install an electronic sensor which immediately stops the door in case an impact is applied or a user is in a dangerous position.

(Daily Safety News, July 7, 2004)

- Safety concern increases after the explosion of the cellular phone batteries
- Consumer Protection Board issues consumer safety warning on the 7th of the month

**Up to now, most of the explosions involving the cellular phone batteries have occurred in foreign countries. When similar explosions started to occur in Korea, consumers' concern on the safety of the cellular phone batteries became a public issue.**

According to the announcement made by the Consumer Protection Board on August 7, the results of tests conducted by the Board on the cause of the recent cellular phone battery explosions and the safety of the typical types of batteries indicated that disrapture or burning may occur in case the external part of the batteries is damaged. The Board therefore requested users to observe safety rules when using the batteries.

At the same time, the Board requested related persons to supplement the method of evaluating safety of the cellular phone batteries, promote safety of the products and strengthen efforts to promote safety consciousness of consumers. The Board has also requested related authorities to establish the standards of testing batteries and of safety evaluation.

**In the meantime, a poll taken among 300 cellular phone users in Seoul showed that 43.1% of the respondents did not know much about the warning given in the operation manual, while 47.1% have never expected that the users' cellular phone batteries or the chargers might be exploded and/or burned. This indicates that the consumers' safety consciousness on batteries is insufficient. As of the end of March this year, the number of the cellular phone subscribers exceeded 35,000,000. It therefore becomes necessary to establish systematic improvement programs with respect to the safety awareness of consumers regarding cellular phones.**

**(Daily Safety News, July 7, 2004)**

- **A ceremony of awarding prizes held for the '20th memorandum of struggle against occupational diseases and the 2nd memorandum of overcoming unemployment'**

**Prizes were awarded to the memorandum of those who, after wandering about in despair due to industrial accidents and unemployment, finally succeeded in standing up again.**

**The Korea Labor Welfare Corporation (President: Bang Yong-suk) on August 10 held a prize awarding ceremony for the '20th memorandum of struggle against occupational diseases and the 2nd memorandum of overcoming unemployment' at the auditorium of the Korea Labor Welfare Corporation in Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul.**

**Among 12 prizes, the glorious gold prize in the memorandum of struggle against industrial accidents went to the story of Lee Jong-wook (Male, age: 54) "Change of thoughts has changed the quality of life." Lee was involved in a serious accident where he, while working on cargo transporting, fell and suffered paraplegia. Despite such serious injury, Lee conquered the frustrations and pains and started 2nd life by establishing a printing company last year. In the story of overcoming unemployment, the "Glorious Implanter" by Kim Hye-yeon (female, age:51) won the gold prize. As a female head of family and despite the debts and the burdens of raising children, she learned beauty art and finally succeeded in standing by herself.**

**A total of 12,400,000 won of prize money will be given to these winners of which 8,500,000 won will be presented to the winners in the memorandum of struggle against industrial accidents, and a total of 5,200,000 won to the winners in the story of overcoming unemployment.**

**"The story of prize winners will be published in books and distributed to the industrial accident hospitals, related institutions and work places. We believe it will be of great help to those in the similar situation" said an official from the Corporation.**

**(Daily Safety News, August 11, 2004)**

- [Training site under spotlight] A visit to Samsung Heavy Industries Safety Simulation Room

**"Carelessness will let you fall in an instant"**

**"When you climb up and down the ladder here, you are highly vulnerable to fall. If the block is unsecure, the ladder might fall leading to a serious accident."**

**The voice of Hyo-su Jon, the old-timer plate welding team head, rung loudly to the people who entered the Cyber safety training center on August 24.**

**Listening to Team Head Jon who explained that a moment's fault may cost life bringing nothing but grief to family, some 60 people from 13 companies who participated in the danger foreseeing practice training looked tense at Jon's remarks.**

**After being trained on theory and morale for 2 hours, trainees are put into the field practice chamber installed in the front yard of the safety simulation room.**

**The safety simulation room, the sole such kind ever installed at a domestic shipyard, allows one to physically experience fall, electric-shock, fires or explosions under an environment same as the actual working site of the shipyard. Through such practice and experience, trainees realize how important it is to wear safety equipment and to observe safety rules. After training, workers commented, "If we are slightly careless at the job site, we will fall or suffer electric shock. We have to be really careful for ourselves."**

**Approximately 20,000 employees of Samsung Heavy Industries and suppliers receive such cyber safety training in turn. All key members of the Production Division have received special safety training for 4 months starting from February. The newly hired employees undergo 8 hour training on theory and practice prior to assignment to their respective job sites. Even after that, they receive special safety training for 2 hours every month because accidents can be prevented only when they are accustomed to safety awareness. Samsung Heavy Industries conducts safety training for 10 minutes in the morning and the afternoon before starting work . What makes it different from other companies is that they are taking advantage of 132 kinds of figures made by the HSE(Health·Safety·Environment) Team. Workers discuss dangers they have experienced looking at the figures showing the work scenes immediately prior to the occurrence of typical accidents, and undergo danger foreseeing drills before starting work.**

**Samsung Heavy Industries takes positive interest in the HSE management. The HSE affairs are systematically controlled through the computer network which analyzes 654 types of accidents. If an employee is recommended as a model worker who observes safety rules well, he/she wins prizes. An employee granted with 1 star will receive a medal and a gift certificate worth 100,000**

won; a medal and a gift certificate worth 300,000 won for 2 stars, and a plaque and a gift certificate worth 500,000 won presented by the president including an opportunity to receive training from overseas for 3 stars.

An employee who achieves zero-accident will receive awards, and an employee who violates rules will be subject to disciplinary actions. Thanks to such system, the number of accidents occurred as of July stood at 71, indicating a decrease by 24 cases compared with that in the same period of the year before, 95 cases.

In the case of serious accidents, the number of cases decreased to only 1 case from 5 cases of 2002. No serious accident has occurred so far this year, indicating good results of efforts.

Samsung Heavy Industries received "Blue" rating granted to an enterprise showing low accident rate and superior safety activities from the Ministry of Labor, the first such rating ever granted to a large shipyard.

(The Korea Economic Daily, August 26, 2004)

- **Update in KOSHA**
  - KOSHA Home Page newly established Search function strengthened for the convenience of users
- An official of KOSHA disclosed that the Home Page (<http://www.kosha.or.kr>) of KOSHA had recently been redecorated. The large-scale reorganization has improved the shortcomings of the existing home page to that anyone can easily gain access to various domestic and overseas safety and health information.

KOSHA has reorganized the home page DB into a user friendly mode so that anyone can search desired information. After strengthening the search functions which had not been effectively used before, even new visitors can easily gain access to information. Furthermore, the CUG(Closed User Group) function, which had not been activated due to the shortage of support, has been improved, reviving the existing purport of operating the system as a voluntary safety management system.

"We will provide multimedia oriented service from the simple character-centered service," said an official from the KOSHA information operation team. "We are also planning to build an expert system using the home page DB." KOSHA plans to expand the service based on the DB, which is essential to the voluntary accident prevention activities, cutting edge systems and the solutions.

(Daily Safety News, July 28, 2004)



- KOSHA to push School Safety Culture Campaign

- Cultivating activities of the teachers through safety and health education to cope with the accidents-

**In order to prevent accidents involving children by improving the ability of teachers and children to foresee accident risks, KOSHA conducted "Summer safety training for teachers" at the KOSHA Training Center from August 2nd to August 13th for some 100 teachers who are in charge of safety from the elementary schools operating in the nation.**

**The training consisting of theory, discussions and practices will be given for a total of 60 hours. Subjects include information on the safety training provided by KOSHA, types and prevention of school safety accidents, school risk foreseeing drills and the safety of school facilities.**

**"Until last year, we provided training for 30 hours; however, the training hours have been increased to 60 starting this year to improve the effectiveness of the training," stated Pak Dong-keun, the head of KOSHA Safety Culture Implementation Team. "It seems that we can provide more effective training starting this year."**

**"Safety is an important issue directly related to life," added Pak, saying "We believe that we can obtain good political results only when the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development, the ministry responsible for school safety, shows positive interest in the safety training."**

**KOSHA has conducted safety training for a total of 2,226 teachers since 1995, including 185 teacher in 2002 and 284 teachers in 2003.**

**(Daily Safety News, 2004. 8)**

- Achievements of KOSHA certification system

**The 'KOSHA 18001 Certification System' under which a voluntary safety management system is constructed for effective safety management at the construction site has born some fruits.**

**On the 1st of the month KOSHA disclosed the results of analysis carried out on the construction companies showing good accident rate during the past year. The results showed that among 30 largest construction companies, POSCO Construction Company and Taeyung Construct Company that had acquired KOSHA 18001 Certification took the 1st and 2nd place in the low accident rate companies by recording converted accident rates of 0.08 and 0.13 respectively.**

**These construction companies received 2 additional points in the recognition index in the pre-qualifications(PQ) that decisively affect the winning of orders, greatly improving corporate competitiveness.**

According to KOSHA, KOSHA 18001 Certification system has been established based on the existing safety management system and the Industrial Safety and Health Management System recommended by the International Labor Organization (ILO). It supports training and consulting so that the voluntary safety systems can be built for each site by presenting standardized risk evaluation models.

KOSHA explained that there are only 5 companies that have received this Certification, 3 construction companies including POSCO Construction and 2 corporations including the Korea Highway Corporation. Hyundai Construction and the Construction Department of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction plan to acquire this Certification system during this year.

- 20th Annual APOSHO conference held in Beijing

**The 20th annual APOSHO(Asia-Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization) conference will be held in Beijing, China from the 31st of the month to September 3.**

**This annual conference also called an ‘Olympic’ of the industrial safety and health is attended by representatives in charge of industrial safety and health from some 20 countries of Asia-Pacific area and the U.S. and Britain. This international conference held for the first time in China aiming to be a world economic power draws keen interest from the participants.**

**Even though this conference is promoted by the Occupational and Safety Association of China, it is co-sponsored by the Safety, Environment and Health Research Institute, China Coal Corporation, National Safety and production Supervisory Bureau of China, and the Federation of Labor Union of China.**

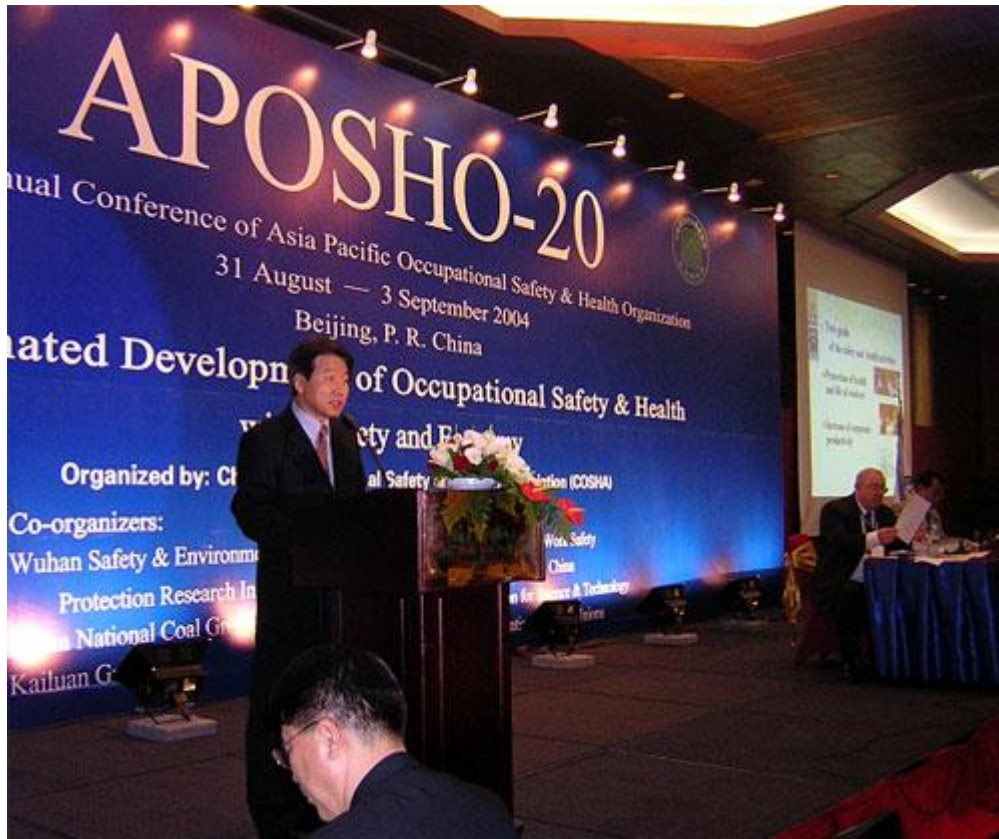
**Held under the theme, discussions focusing on 11 detailed themes including the safety and health of small-medium enterprises, industrial safety training and the safe of public places will be held at this conference.**

**Meanwhile, an international industrial safety and health fair will be held from September 1 to September 4 at the exhibition hall of the world trade center located in Beijing of China as a part of an event linked with this conference.**

**Major exhibitions include private protective equipments, safety and health equipments, elevators, traffic safety, fire-fighting safety and products of other sectors.**

**KOSHA and the Korea Industrial Safety Association will participate in this conference and well-known protective equipment makers will take part in the exhibition.**

**(Daily Safety News, August 16, 2004)**



- KOSHA enters into an agreement with the Health and Safety Laboratory of Britain

**Kim Yong Dal, President of KOSHA will enter into a technical coalition agreement on the 10th of the month with the David Buchanan, Director of the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) located in Buxton, Britain.**

**The purpose of this agreement is to promote mutual technology cooperation system in R&D activities and personal exchanges by concluding an agreement with HSL, a world authority in the technique of investigation into serious accidents, research method and the research into the safety of chemical plants.**

**The Health and Safety Laboratory(HSL) used to be a R&D division of the Health and Safety Executive(HSE) established in 1974 based on the Act on Health and Safety at Work. The R&D division was reorganized and expanded into the current HSL, an authoritative research institute composed of 357 researchers in 7 divisions (Fires and Explosion Division, Engineering Division, Human Engineering Division, Biomedical Division, Environment Division and the Project Development Division). HSL investigates the causes of accidents, analyzes working environment, provides support in prevent industrial accidents, and implements long-term safety and health projects.**

(Naeil Shinmun, September 9, 2004)



**[ Dr. David Buchanan, Director of HSL signs an agreement ]**

- KOSHA designated as "Superior Management Reform" for 3 years in a row

**KOSHA has been chosen as the Institute of Superior Management Reform for 2003 by the central government ministries, local governments and the public institutions that had conducted comprehensive evaluation of management reform.**

**KOSHA disclosed on September 1 that it was designated as the "Institute of Superior Management Reform" for 3 years in a row following 2001 and 2002. KOSHA was the only government agency that had been chosen as such at the '2003 government agency management reform evaluation forum' held on June 30 at the AT Center located in Yangjae-dong under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Planning and Budget.**

**KOSHA was awarded in 2003 in recognition of superiority in △ the establishment and implementation of the management reform strategies, △ Construction of a knowledge management system aimed at improving customer services, △ Computerization of clean projects to support small-medium enterprises in their efforts to prevent accidents, △ Restructuring organizations to strengthen the core ability to prevent industrial accidents, and in △ the construction of a transparent and fair personnel culture.**

(Naeil Shinmun, July 2, 2004)

- **New OSH Materials**
  - Ministry of Labor publishes a book titled 'Industrial Safety and Health Committee operation manual'

**A book containing the details of the Industrial Safety and Health Committee will be published, which will revitalize the Industrial Safety and Health Committee that had experienced difficulty in operating at the front work places due to shortage of related information.**

**The Ministry of Labor announced September 17 that it had published a book titled ' Industrial Safety and Health Committee operation manual ' which had interpreted in an easy way the details of the Industrial Safety and Health Committee being operated at the front workplaces.**

**The book contains in detail the important matters of the Industrial Safety and Health Committee, laws related to the operation of the Committee and the questions and answers.**

**The book also contains cases of excellent work places including Carrier-LG and Lafarge Halla Cement that had won prizes at the ' Industrial Safety and Health Committee presentation of excellent cases ' held in July this year.**

**"I believe each workplace had difficulty in operating the Industrial Safety and Health Committee due to lack of related information and materials," said Lee Chae-pil, Director of Industrial Safety Bureau.**

**"I hope that the labor and the management at the front work places will fully use this book in operating the Industrial Safety and Health Committee and in creating a wellbeing workplace."**

- **'Children 's Elevator Safety Class ' CD produced and distributed**

**On July 27th, the Korea Elevator Safety Institute announced that it will distribute educational CDs called Children 's Elevator Safety Class produced jointly with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy.**

**The flashy produced for children this time is composed of? Elevator safety story, ? Escalator safety story, ? Examples of elevator accidents, ? Elevatory etiquette, ? Learning games, and ?Screen protectors. The CD may be downloaded for installation from the Korea Elevator Safety Institute home page ([www.kesi.or.kr](http://www.kesi.or.kr)).**



- KNR completed a SOP for countering KTX accidents

The Korea National Railroad disclosed on August 12th that it had completed a Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for countering accidents by each type for Korea Train Express (KTX). The purpose is to enable responsible persons to quickly and effectively recover accidents, assuming various cases of situation such as derailment, fires or terrors. This SOP has been prepared to suit Korean situation after analyzing the railroad operating in advanced countries such as France and Japan that have abundant experience in operating high-speed rail systems and after undergoing repeated simulation tests. The book provides detailed information on the procedures and roles of each responsible person including the Operation Command KTX captain, and the train team head by the accident sites including tunnels and bridges. It also lists related institutions and even the support systems in the private sector. All of these will allow prompt and effective recovery from accidents even when accidents or errors occur during the operation of the KTX.

Prior to this, KTX also distributed "Guidance map of the Seoul-Busan high-speed rail " to its subordinate institutions and other related agencies so that employees and equipments can easily gain access to the KTX line which is protected by the safety iron fence.

(Daily Safety News, 2004. 8. 13)