

KOSHA NEWS

Protecting Worker's
Life and Health

Feb. 2015

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Major Projects and Strategies for Accident Prevention in 2015

With starting a new journey for 2015, KOSHA announces 5 key strategies in priority to promote activities of occupational accident and disease prevention.

January 19, 2015

First, making firm ground for a response system to prevent major accidents

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The anxiety of the public is growing as chemical and construction accidents occur in succession over the last few years. Therefore, it is necessary to reinforce monitoring systems to prevent chemical accidents by adopting an early warning system for chemical hazards, improving PSM-covered workplaces management, etc. Efforts to reduce fatalities in the manufacturing and the construction industries need to be expanded as well. KOSHA will conduct a more thorough inspection and a review of harm and hazard prevention plan; expand safety and health diagnosis of time-worn industrial complexes and petrochemical plants with the possibility of major accidents; and reinforce Safety and Health Guardian project for small-sized workplaces.



Second, securing safety and health for the vulnerable group to occupational accidents

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There are many underprivileged workers working in poor conditions when it comes to occupational safety and health. For the purpose of protecting those workers, it is necessary to establish safety network at work and to alleviate the polarization of safety and health by widening financial assistance projects and promoting activation of self-regulatory safety and health movement.

Third, establishing a self-regulatory safety and health system at workplaces

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KOSHA will spare no effort to support self-regulatory OSH movement of labor and management and make a firm ground for Risk Assessment as an essential system at workplaces.

Major Projects and Strategies for Accident Prevention in 2015

In particular, for the capacity building of small-sized workplaces to manage harm and hazards, KOSHA will actively pursue the recognition and consulting of Risk Assessment so that this boils down to a safety and health management system leading the completion of a self-regulatory safety system.

Fourth, building an infrastructure for workers' health promotion

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Activities to prevent occupational diseases should be expanded and diversified. KOSHA will establish a comprehensive system of suffocation prevention at the workplaces with high level of the accident occurrence and avoid occupational accidents by providing technical assistance for workplaces handling chemicals. Infrastructure for workers' health promotion should be established. KOSHA will expand worker's health centers and chronic inhalation toxic chemical test facility to raise the standard of OSH such as evaluation and classification of chemical harmfulness.

Fifth, strengthening safety culture projects to intensify safety awareness nationwide

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Awareness of workers should be raised and their commitment needs to be demonstrated. KOSHA will provide educational training courses to deal with social issues and factors of frequent accidents.

Action-based culture of safety needs to be promoted. Through private partnership projects and campaigns jointly collaborated by labor, management, private and public, KOSHA will spread pan-national movement on safety culture.

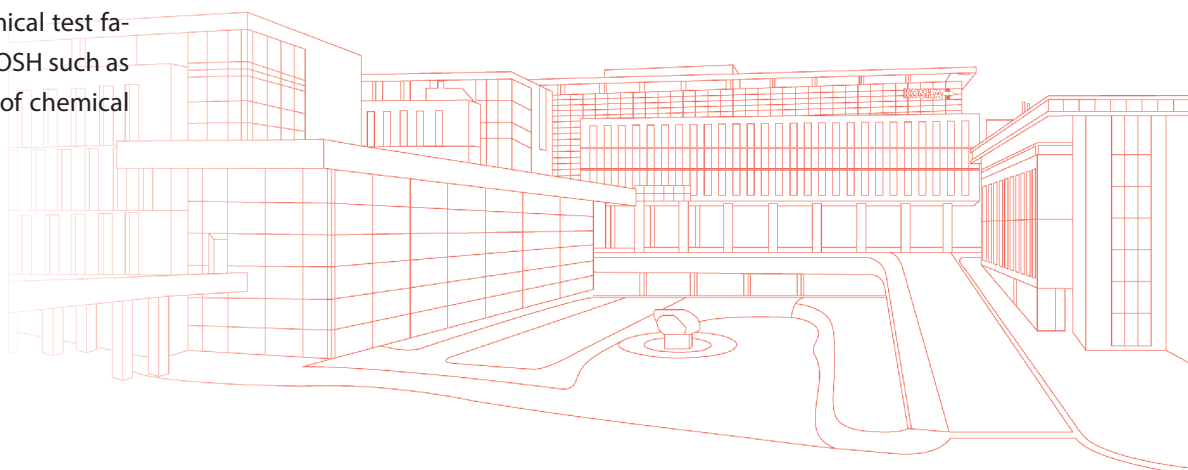
Last but not least, successfully opening the ICOH Congress 2015

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By hosting a successful and largest-ever congress participated by experts from 120 countries worldwide, KOSHA will enhance its national status and be recognized as a world leading organization for occupational accident prevention.

To make 2015 a watershed for the development of KOSHA, I ask your participation and determination. 

Lee, Young Soon
President



Coming soon of the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency is going to host the 31st International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH Congress 2015) in Seoul, Korea from 31 May to 5 June 2015 co-organized by International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the Korean Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

The aim of ICOH Congress 2015 is contributing to academic development in the OSH field by sharing state of the art researches, knowledge, and experience; expanding a worldwide network of OSH professionals for mutual cooperation enhancement; and laying a firm ground to advance practical knowledge in the field.

With the theme of "Global Harmony for Occupational Health: Bridge the World", the Congress will be an important milestone in meeting our challenges at

the time of rapid changes in economic globalization. The Congress provides the perfect setting for the exchanges of advances in research and practice in OSH field worldwide. It is timely to focus on harmonized action for managing complex work-related risks in increasingly diversified work situations.

The scientific programme of the Congress is being formulated by the active participation of the 35 ICOH Scientific Committee members. Particular emphasis will be placed on solution-oriented risk management methods and network-based interactions. We are certain that the plenary sessions, symposia, mini-symposia, special sessions, and posters of the Congress will provide significant insight into harmonized good occupational health practices. 



Safety Videos Released for Press, Crane, and Gas Welding Work

KOSHA distributes educational OSH videos on accident-prone work operation.

January 22, 2015




KOSHA distributes 3 educational video clips about proper work procedures and practices for press, crane, and gas welding which possess high risk of occupational accidents. These videos are expected to help workers and safety managers at site to make identifying risk factors and understanding safety measures easy.

The video clips focus more on the real work practices on site. In the video, safety managers impart knowledge and information on hazards by type of work; proper work procedure; and safe use of tools and equipment at the workplaces using press, crane and gas welding.

In the Press part, you can learn the risk of caught-ins between molds of press, how to install protective devices properly, and

emergency response in case of accident such as cuts. Useful information on correct lifting methods and required working dos and don'ts before and during operation is also provided in the Crane and Gas welding parts respectively.

In particular, workplaces with less than 50 workers, which are under no obligation to hire a safety manager, can utilize the videos for the educational purpose on press and gas welding work.

Each of three videos plays 50 minutes and promotes awareness on safety by reconstructing real accident cases. Twenty-minute out of 50 minutes of each video consists of information on stretching exercises and how to deal with heavy materials in common. 

All in One Application for Safety and Health

KOSHA operates an integrated application and launches 'Safety Check' app

Enhancing utilization and realistic feature of OSH information


January 26, 2015

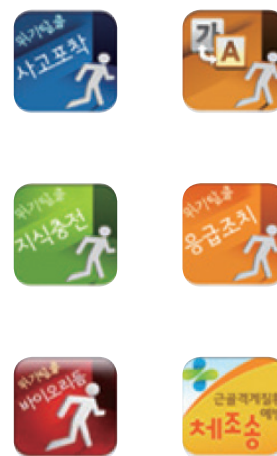
KOSHA strengthens the OSH in the world of Android. KOSHA has recently combined the 9 existing applications (app) into 'KOSHA' app and newly launched 'Safety Check' app.

The KOSHA application encompasses the 9 apps which KOSHA has developed: Breaking Accident News; Interpreter; OSH Knowledge Reservoir; First-aid Treatment, etc. Now the KOSHA app provides various services and information without inconvenience of installing each of apps separately.

This integrated application provides services such as Breaking Accident News which delivers newsflash of major occupational accidents; Interpreter which translates basic conversation on site by type of industries with 1,300 sentences in 13 different languages; OSH Media; Building up Health; MSDS which provides information of chemicals; Biorhythms; OSH Education Schedule in Construction; and KOSHA Technical Guide.

Today's weather and severity of occupational accident are shown on the top page of the KOSHA app. In line with that, dangerous levels of fire, fall, stroke, and explosion and rupture are indicated with 'very high' or 'warning' as well.

The newly launched Safety Check app consists of check lists for workplaces. With the app, workplaces with hazardous tools and machineries will be able to perform inspection with nothing but a smartphone. 



“Employing retiree’ experience for securing safety in construction site”

Recruiting OSH guardians from retirees with experience
in the construction field

Patrol to secure safety in small and medium sized
construction site

February 16, 2015

KOSHA invites ‘OSH Guardians in Construction Site’ of 2015 to put experience of safety in construction sites and to promote job creation for the elderly.


Targeting retirees with practical working experiences of safety in construction field, the ‘OSH Guardians in Construction Site’ will strengthen the safety level of small and medium sized construction sites whose management on safety could be weak and vulnerable as well as provide the retirees with opportunities of social activities.

The subject of recruitment is retirees aged 55 or more with working experience of construction site safety. KOSHA will select 200 retirees as OSH guardians of 2015. To prevent major accidents, the selected retirees will patrol small and medium sized construction sites costing less than 12 billion KRW (about 12 million USD) by checking whether the workers are wearing PPE and utilizing safety facilities or not. They will lead workplaces with vulnerable safety facilities to the promotion activities in collaboration with KOSHA and the Ministry of Employment and Labor.

Indeed, the number of industrial accident victims at construction site costing less than 12 billion KRW for the last 3 years is 62,156 accounting for 89.1 % of total number of 69,731.

KOSHA has run related systems since 2010. Last year, KOSHA conducted almost 50,000 times of patrols nationwide targeting small sized construction projects costing

less than 5 billion KRW. The death toll of the construction sites costing less than 5 billion KRW shows decrease of 16 people year-on-year.

KOSHA expects that this year the ‘OSH Guardians in Construction Site’ movement will contribute to accident prevention at construction sites possessing high risk of occupational accidents as well. 



Financial assistance for the industrial vulnerable

February 27, 2015

KOSHA supports 'the industrial vulnerable' such as small-sized businesses with less than 10 workers with financial assistance for the 'work environment monitoring' and the 'special medical examination'.


Employers of the businesses with less than 10 workers who apply for the financial assistance and then conduct the 'work environment monitoring' are eligible for being paid the related expenses.

In case of the 'special medical examination' which is subject to workers, expenses for the examination will be provided after completing 1st and 2nd examinations.

First, KOSHA selects businesses subject to financial assistance among applying businesses. Once an employer or workers implement work environment monitoring or special health examination through designated monitoring or examining institutions, the institutions charge the expenses to KOSHA. KOSHA then pays the expense after reviewing the propriety of the results.

The purpose of implementing the 'work environment monitoring' and the 'special medical examination' is to protect workers' health from the exposure to chemicals, noise, or dust related work. In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act, an employer of workplace with workers exposed to the related harmful factors is obliged to conduct the monitoring or examination periodically.

Business with less than 10 workers, whose work environment is vulnerable to occupational accidents, falls short of capacity to manage health of workers due to financial reasons. In this regard, financial assistance for the 'work environment monitoring' or the 'special health examination' is provided to the business to ease the burden of the employer and to prevent occupational diseases.

The financial assistance for the 'work environment monitoring' or the 'special health examination' aims at protecting health of workers in small-sized business under the vision of the Government 3.0: establishing safe and secure work environment by sharing OSH information among KOSHA, businesses and related organizations. 



“Publishing Best Practices of MOUs”

KOSHA publishes 「Safe World with You」
A casebook of best practices of MOUs

February 12, 2015



KOSHA publishes a casebook of best practices of MOUs under the title of 'Safe World with You' to disseminate a culture of safety.

The casebook includes the selected 18 best practices of MOUs concluded from 2012 to 2014 to gather ability in securing national safety and health. The content is composed of activities and efforts of KOSHA in collaboration with central and local governments, public organizations, associations and business. It contains the result of movement for accident prevention as well.

The Gyeongnam regional office of Korea Yakult Corporation signed an MOU with KOSHA in 2011 and has actively prevented slips and trips as well as musculo-skeletal diseases of delivery women. The office has also made efforts to spread a culture of safety by providing informative materials for accident prevention to schools and businesses through their delivery women, which boils down to not only securing the safety of delivery women but also escalating safety awareness of the people.

An MOU between KOSHA and Daejeon

Provincial Police Agency enables the reduction of motor bike vehicle accident by 18 cases comparing to the period before concluding the MOU. With this as a momentum, KOSHA concluded more MOUs with traffic-related agencies in the nearby area.

The 170-page-casebook shows the result of accident reduction after concluding MOUs in graphs and best practices by way of storytelling with photos. You can also download the PDF version of the casebook on the website of KOSHA. (<http://www.kosha.or.kr>) 