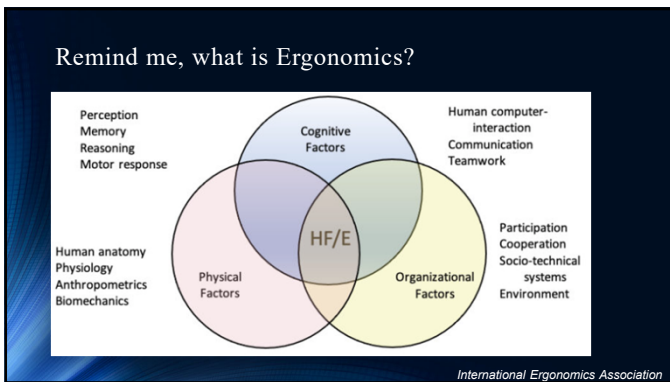




1



2

Remind me, what is Ergonomics?

- It has evolved in our world....try to keep up!
- We're all in business, ergonomics fits here!
- Ergonomics is a [solution](#) to a problem.

From IEA: ...the scientific discipline concerned with the understanding of interactions among humans and other elements of a system, and the profession that applies theory, principles, data, and methods to design in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance

From the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society : The goal of human factors is to reduce human error, increase productivity, and enhance safety and comfort with a specific focus on the interaction between a human and the thing of interest.

- **Simple Goal: Produce a high quality product, faster and safer, and without error.**

3

So, how do we do that?

- Engineer the task/process so that it can be completed by a wide range of employees.
- Ensure that people assigned to tasks have the necessary capabilities to succeed.
- Remove waste and potential for errors from the process.
- Standardize as much as possible.
- Audit your changes.

Sounds like Continuous Improvement, no?

4

Start from the beginning

- Develop Internal Engineering and Design Standards
 - ANSI / ISO
 - ISO 6385:2016 - Ergonomics principles in the design of work systems
 - ISO 11228-1:2021 - Ergonomics - Manual Handling - Part 1: Lifting, Lowering And Carrying
 - Design Adjustability into machinery and processes
- Use anthropometry to your advantage
 - US Army Tables – good for general use
- Hiring practices
 - Post-Offer / Pre-Employment

5

Physical Demands Assessment

- Quantify the Work:
 - Uses standard terminology and measurements found in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.
 - DOES NOT QUANTIFY RISK
 - Simply describes what is necessary to complete the essential functions of the job.
- Great for:
 - Job Descriptions
 - Return to Work
 - Time-studies
 - Framework and basis for POPE test

6

Employee Training

- Risk Factors
- Tasks with elevated risk specific to their role
- Hands-on training in biomechanics
 - Use actual materials or props
- Teach work prep activities
- Trained mentors observe and give feedback right away

10

Ergonomic Standard Work – Work Preparation/F4D

Emphasized Stretches By Activity		Emphasized Stretches By Task	
Job Task	Emphasized Stretch Number	Job Task	Emphasized Stretch Number
Pushing – Arms and Back	4, 11, 16, 17, 18	PU - Maneuvering Pallet Jack	4, 11, 16, 17, 18
Pulling – Arms and Back	4, 11, 16, 17, 18	Moving Equipment	4, 11, 16, 17, 18
Lifting and Carrying	4, 11, 18	Feeding Line – Blocks of Cheese	4, 11, 18
Forklift – Sit-Down - Legs	4, 12, 13, 17	PU – Palletting Product	4, 11, 18
Forklift – Stand Up	4, 5, 11, 15	Warehouse – Stand-Up Forklift	4, 5, 11, 15
Hand Controls	19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24	Warehouse – Forklift Hand Controls	19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
Grasping and Holding - Hands	2, 3, 19, 20, 21	PU - Work at Conveyor - Neck	1, 7, 12, 15
Looking Down at Conveyor - Neck	1, 7, 12, 15	PU - Working at Conveyor	6, 11, 12, 16
Pinching - Hand	22, 21, 25	Driving Vehicle – Truck or Car	4, 5, 17
Finger Manipulation - Hand	21, 22, 24, 25	Hand Tools / Knives – Hand and Arm	19, 20, 24
Working at Conveyor	6, 11, 12, 16	Placing Product in Box	1, 6, 19, 20
Sitting and Driving	4, 5, 17	Climbing / Stepping – Legs and Back	4, 12, 13, 17
Hand Tools / Knives – Hand and Arm	19, 20, 24	Office - Working on Computer	1, 2, 3, 21, 23
Reaching - Arm	6, 8, 11, 7, 16, 23	Office Static Work - Back	4, 5, 11, 17
Placing Product in Box	1, 6, 19, 20		

11

We've had a soft tissue injury, now what?

12

PDCA Process

- Ergonomics is a [solution](#), remember?
- Plan – Say what we will do
- Do – Do what we said we would do
- Check – Confirm that we are doing what we said we would do
- Act – Institutionalize, document, and audit to prevent variance and drift from standard process.

First, we need data!

13

Tools for the planning process

- PDA
- Risk Assessments
- Post-Offer/Pre-Employment testing
- Ergonomic Standard Work
- Work Preparation - Stretching/Nerve Glides/Fit-for-Duty
- Ergonomic Solution Teams &PACE Charting
- Audits & Observations
- Training – Get physical!

14

Data Collection and Analysis

- Data drives decision-making - Good data drives results
- Don't react to quickly
- There is an ocean of data available
 - step back, see big picture
 - don't always go after the 1st thing you see
- Look for trends and broader similarities in the data
- Where do I start?

15

OSHA 300's & First Aid Logs & FROI

OSHA's Form 300 (Rev. 10/2016)
Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

Year 20

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

- There may be some easy, obvious wins here.
- Do not rely on this for long term success
- Look for strains and sprains
- Group body parts in buckets, look for similarities

Data Collection and Analysis

16

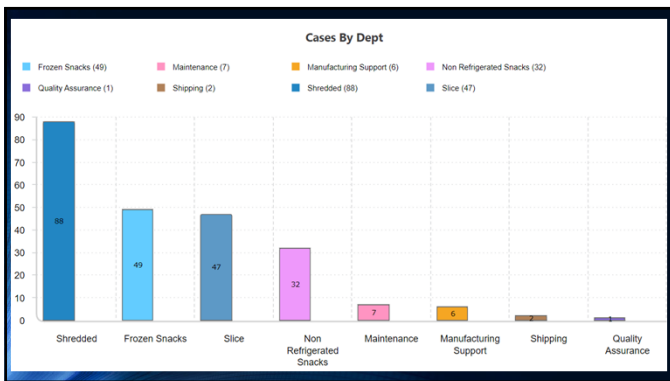
Near Miss Data and BBSOs

1 ACCIDENT WITH 4 DEAD
29 ACCIDENTS WITH INJURED
300 ACCIDENTS WITH DAMAGED PROPERTY
Heinrich's Pyramid 1931

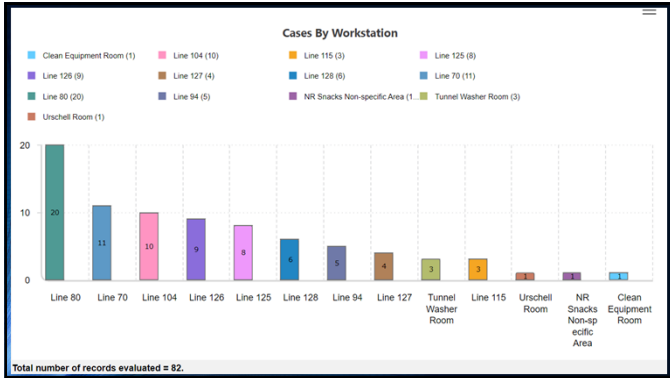
1 DEATH
10 SERIOUS INJURIES
30 MINOR INJURIES
600 NEAR MISSES
Bird's Pyramid 1966

- Goldmine!
- Gather and evaluate all injury, illness, first aid, near misses and observation data
- Sortable and minable in software

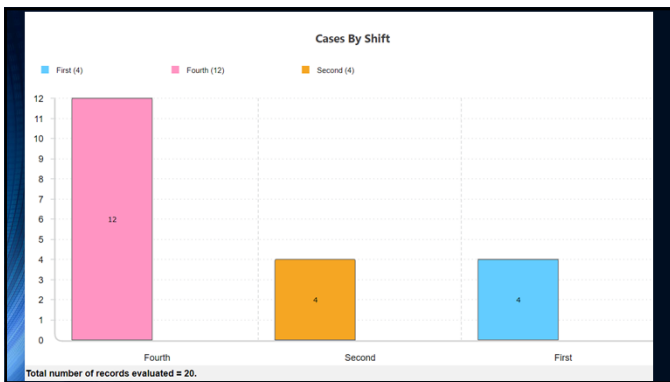
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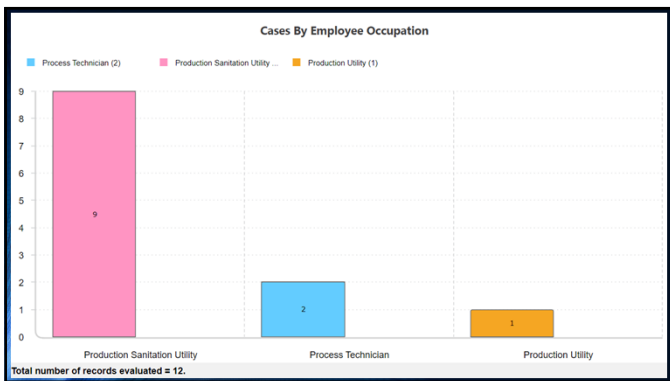
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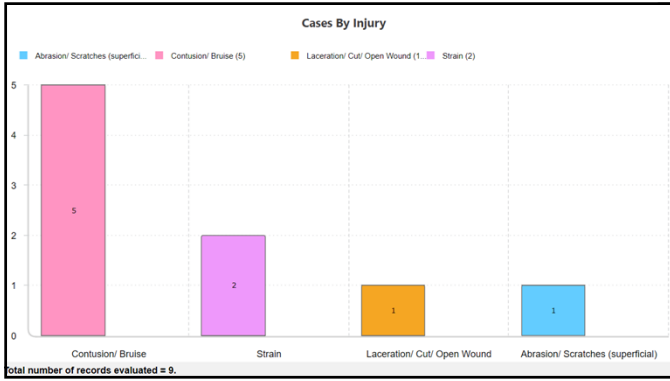
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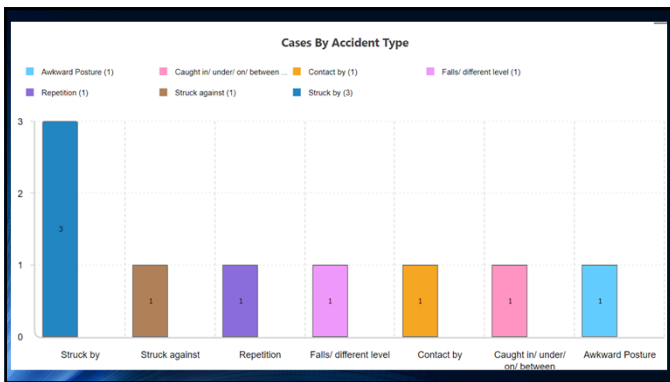
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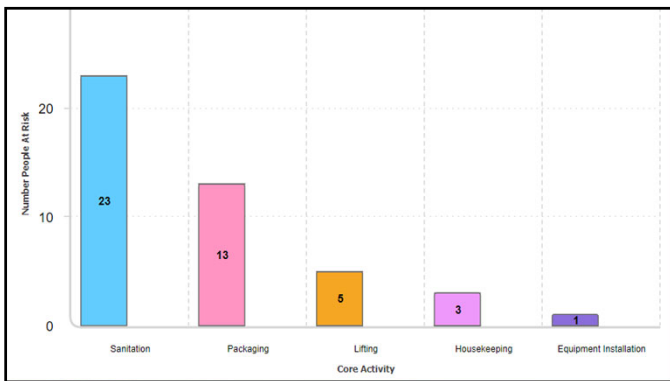
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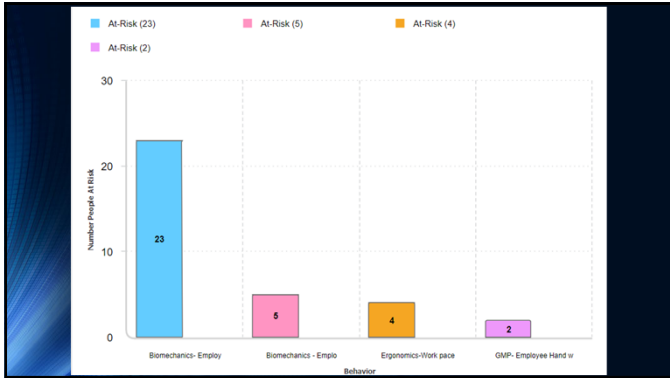
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23



24



25

Data provided focus

- Employees with 1-5 years of tenure, conducting sanitation on fourth shift had a statistically significant higher rate of contusions to the hands and fingers as a result of contact against/by/between machine parts while moving and cleaning mobile equipment.

26

Don't forget to ask the experts

- Employees always know the worst job, find out why
- Internal or hired PT or OT
 - Symptom trends can indicate risk
 - Catch employees on the production floor where early intervention and conservative treatment options still have time to work.
- Show and tell with your external medical community

27

Other Specific Sources of Risk Data

31

NIOSH Lifting Equation

1.3. The Equation and Its Function

The revised lifting equation for calculating the Recommended Weight Limit (RWL) is based on a multiplicative model that provides a weighting for each of its task variables. The weightings are expressed as coefficients that serve to decrease the load constant, which represents the maximum recommended load weight to be lifted under ideal conditions. The RWL is defined by the following equation:

$$RWL = LC \times HM \times VM \times DM \times AM \times FM \times CM$$

Where:

	METRIC	U.S. CUSTOMARY
Load Constant	LC 23 kg	51 lb
Horizontal Multiplier	HM (25/90)	(10/90)
Vertical Multiplier	VM 1-(.003 v-75)	1-(.0075 v-30)
Distance Multiplier	DM .82 + (4.5/D)	.82 + (1.8/D)
Asymmetric Multiplier	AM 1-(.0032A)	1-(.0032A)
Frequency Multiplier	FM From Table 5	From Table 5
Coupling Multiplier	CM From Table 7	From Table 7

• Best Use: General lifting Assessment tool. Tasks that have history of low back injuries. Foundation research for all other tools.

• Limitations: Only used for two-handed lifts. Only addresses low back pain/injuries. Does not apply to very slippery floors, work over 8-hours, high-speed motion.

• <https://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/prevguid/p0000427/p0000427.asp>

Risk Assessment

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Moore-Garg Strain Index

Moore-Garg Strain Index

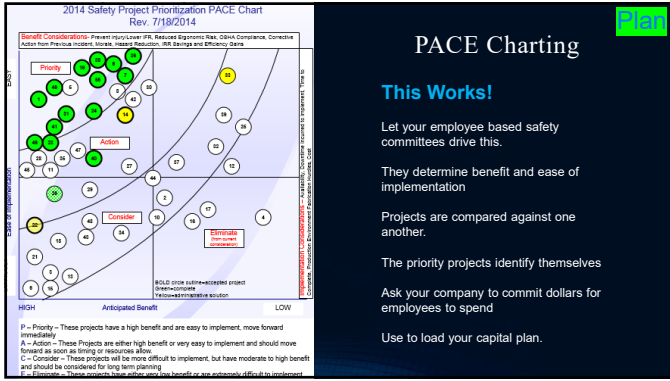
Best use: Upper extremity neuromuscular and MSD involving elbow, wrist and hand, e.g. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, DeQuervain's Syndrome, Radial Tunnel Syndrome, Cubital Tunnel Syndrome, Epicondylitis, Tendonitis, Tenosynovitis

Limitations: Tasks with excessive hand tool vibration
Tasks with high contact stress
3/6 measures are subjective

J. Steven Moore and Arun Garg, The Strain Index: A proposed method to analyze jobs for risk of distal upper extremity disorders, *Am. Ind. Hyg. Assoc. J.* 56:443-458, 1995.

Risk Assessment

33



PACE Charting

This Works!

Let your employee based safety committees drive this.

They determine benefit and ease of implementation

Projects are compared against one another.

The priority projects identify themselves

Ask your company to commit dollars for employees to spend

Use to load your capital plan.

43

Final Plan Summary from our Injury Problem

- Test all mobile equipment for push/pull forces needed to move
- Replace casters where necessary
- Purchase an electric tugger for large equipment
- Engineer parts hangers to free up both hands for cleaning
- Develop standard work process for moving machinery and train

44

Do

- Implement the ideas that are likely to have the highest impact.
- Set up small test pilots if possible.
- This is a test for effectiveness and ineffectiveness.
 - Minimize resource loss if ineffective
- Re-assess risk in real time to confirm assumptions.
- Gather data

45

Implementation Pilot

- Used push/pull meter to measure forces before and after caster change for a variety of casters, choose best casters based on data.
- Used a loaned tugger from another plant to trial with different pieces of large equipment.
- Fabricated test carts with hangers to place and secure machine parts so employees could use both hands

46

Check

- Evaluate data to compare to your success criteria.
- Make small tweaks to processes to refine efficiency and remove chance of error.
- Quantify the benefits of the change

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Check results

- One type of caster from Blickle required 30% less force to move machines.
- Tugger saved time and reduced necessary labor for what was a 2-3 person task.
- Parts cart improved cleaning efficiency and productivity, employee had additional time to use elsewhere. Employees gave feedback to maintenance fabricator to modify carts for easy parts storage.

48

Act – Our Standardization Plan

- Institutionalize the change
 - Purchased casters and created a bi-annual PM to verify condition
 - Placed order to fabricate additional parts carts
 - Purchased dedicated tugger for heavy machinery
- Determine where there may be other areas that would benefit
 - Shared findings with other plants, solutions implemented
 - Determined that parts carts could be used by Maintenance to conduct more efficient PMs because machine re-assembly was faster, ad parts did not walk away.
- Create Standard Work documentation
 - Created a standard work document and trained employees
 - Created an audit and behavior observation form to ensure process remained in tact

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Create Ergonomic Standard Work


- Use PDA and Risk Assessment Data to target specific task components
- Create a training document to include in the task Work Instructions
- Communicate risks to employees
- Provide simple solutions and expectations
- Give them tools for warm-up and stretch
- Use as an auditing tool

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Ergonomic Standard Work

Ergonomic Standard Work

Location: Hilbert
 Department: Balanced Breaks (High Care)
 Task: Removing Straps from Blocks
 Risk: Posture and Force
 Impact: Low Back Strain, Shoulder Strain



Solutions:

1. Move table to prevent reaching.
2. Allow conveyor to move product directly in front of employee before lifting.

Expectation of Ergonomic Standard Work:

1. Modify work station to accommodate your work flow process.
2. Maintain Neutral Posture.

Pre-work Warm up and Stretching Keys:
 Dynamic Stretches – 4, 11, 16,
 Static Stretches – 6, 12, 15
 Nerve Glides – 23

Ergonomic Standard Work

Location: Hilbert
 Department: Balanced Breaks (High Care)
 Task: Scooping Raw Materials
 Risk: Posture and Repetition
 Impact: Shoulder/Neck Strain, Wrist Strain, Carpal Tunnel, Tennis Elbow



Solutions:

1. Do not stack loads of tubs, scoop from waist level
2. Grab handle close to scoop load

Expectation of Ergonomic Standard Work:

1. Use tools appropriately
2. Modify work station to accommodate your work flow process.
3. Maintain Neutral Posture at wrist, shoulder and elbow.
4. Switch hands frequently and vary dumping motions forward & side to side.

Pre-work Warm up and Stretching Keys:
 Dynamic Stretches – 2, 9, 10
 Static Stretches – 19, 20
 Nerve Glides – 23, 24

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Wrapping it up - Don't Bite Off Too Much

- Don't solve the macro-problem
- Plan on implementing many small incremental changes....
- Why?
 - They are less expensive
 - They are done more quickly
 - They are visible
 - They build momentum
 - They show urgency and value to management



“To bite off more than you can chew”
To attempt to take on a something that is too much for you to handle.

52

Small Changes that have Large Impact

- Job Rotation scheduling
- Job Enlargement (increases operational flexibility)
- Stretching Programs (Voluntary or Prescribed)
- PT Symptom Surveys and coaching
- Pallet lifts and turntables
- Anti-vibration/grip gloves
- Housekeeping
- Tool Sharpening program

SMALL DAILY IMPROVEMENTS ARE THE KEY TO STAGGERING LONG-TERM RESULTS

53

Plan

- What is the real cause of the problem?
- What are the current procedures and processes involved in the task?
- What resources will we need to make changes?
- Who are all of the stakeholders and decision makers?
- What barriers need to be removed to make changes?
- What is the timeline we need to meet?
- What does success look like?
- What potential solutions should we try?
- Slow down and answer all of these questions before moving on

54

The End Game

- Continuous process of improvement
- Watch for relapses
 - Inspect what you expect
 - Develop audits that verify sustainability
- Set your wedges (Standard Work)
 - Leadership needs to support and communicate expectations

55

Summary - Using a Process/Systems Approach

- An effective ergonomics program is hands-on and data driven.
- It needs to live through your employees.
- Taking a process approach gives your ergonomics program life and builds momentum for a strong safety culture.
- Choose your weapons and become experts in their use
 - (DMAIC, Fishbone, Hoshin Kanri, Gemba Walks, Standard Work, 5Whys, A3).
- Change is the norm and the whole point.
- Make change visible to all and be loud about it.

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Questions?

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