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Volume 58, 2015 - Issue 5

1,529 Views | 29 CrossRef citations to date | 54 Altmetric

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Workplace slip, trip and fall injuries and obesity

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Pages 674-679 | Received 08 Jan 2013, Accepted 01 Nov 2014, Published online: 22 Dec 2014

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/00140139.2014.985260

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to examine the relationship between slip, trip and fall injuries and obesity in a population of workers at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in Idaho Falls, Idaho. INL is an applied engineering facility dedicated to supporting the US Department of Energy's mission. An analysis was performed on injuries reported to the INL Medical Clinic to determine whether obesity was related to an increase in slip, trip and fall injuries. Records were analysed that spanned a 6-year period (2005–2010), and included 8581 employees (mean age, 47 ± 11 years and body mass index [BMI], 29 ± 5 kg/m^2; 34% obesity rate). Of the 189 people who reported slip, trip and fall injuries (mean age, 48 ± 11 years), 51% were obese ($P < 0.001$ compared with uninjured employees), and their mean BMI was 31 ± 6 kg/m^2 ($P < 0.001$). Obesity in this population was associated with a greater rate of slip, trip and fall injuries.

Abstract

Practitioner Summary: Slip, trip and fall injuries are a major contributor of workplace-related injuries and a great financial burden to employers. This study examines the impact of obesity in slip, trip and fall injuries. The investigation found that obesity was associated with a greater rate of slip, trip and fall injuries.

Keywords::

ergonomics falls injury obesity workplace

Related Research Data

Slips, trips and falls in different work groups — with reference to age and from a preventive perspective
Source: Applied Ergonomics
The Epidemiology of Slips, Trips, and Falls in a Helicopter Manufacturing Plant
Source: Human Factors The Journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
An Analysis of the Accuracy of Wearable Sensors for Classifying the Causes of Falls in Humans
Source: IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering
Trunk kinematics and fall risk of older adults: Translating biomechanical results to the clinic
Source: Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology
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