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Workplace slip, trip and fall injuries and obesity

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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/m²; 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/m² ($P < 0.001$). 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

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