

Finding out what harms us.... Workshop

Kathy Jenkins and Ivan Timson

Tools

Risk Assessment
Inspection
H&S Committee
Small group discussion
Mapping: individual, workplace, 'world'
Surveys/interviews (5 key concerns for you...)
Observation
Photo/videos/picture boards
Specific campaigns
Following up individual cases

DIY Research, Hazards magazine

A do-it-yourself resource section on health and safety research in the workplace.

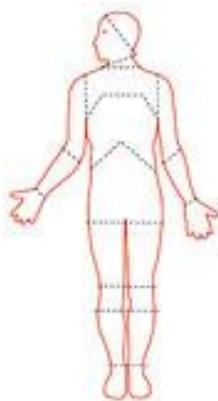
<http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/> including: mapping, surveys, worker-centred research, organising for safety, case histories

Mapping



Body Mapping

Ears
Neck and back
Breasts
Blood and heart
Kidneys
Reproduction
Skin
Muscles
Legs, knees and feet
Joints



Eyes
Mouth and jaw
Nose and throat
Chest and lungs
Stomach
Liver
Bladder
Arms, wrists and hands
Feet and ankles
Central nervous system
Peripheral nerves



Hazards Cancer Prevention Kit

This online resource forms part of a *Hazards* 'Zero cancer' campaign.

The initiative promotes participatory approaches to reducing occupational and environmental cancer risks.

It is a project of Stirling University's Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Research Group (OEHSRG) and is coordinated by OEHSRG's Professor Rory O'Neill and researcher Jawad Qasrawi.

Hazards Work Cancer Prevention Kit

Part 1 Occupational cancer briefing - Work started it. Unions will stop it.

Part 2 Building a union cancer campaign

Part 3 Practical advice on reducing the workplace cancer risk

Part 4 Resources and further information

Part 5 Fighting cancer - print off and use feature

<http://www.hazards.org/cancer/preventionkit/index.htm>

Workplace detectives

If you think sticking your head in the text books will give you the all the answers about workplace cancer risks, you'd be wrong. Barely one in every 100 chemicals used at work have been systematically tested.

Finding out if there is a workplace risk requires union vigilance. That means doing your own detective work. Unions have been instrumental in first identifying a number of workplace cancers, from bladder cancer in dye workers to liver cancer in vinyl chloride workers.

Remember, keep it as simple as possible. A quick discussion at a union meeting might provide all the information you need. Just make sure you involve the workforce – they know their jobs, their workmates and the real hazards of the job.

Ask around. Has one part of the workplace got high levels of sickness absence? Are you aware of cases of cancer in workers or ex-workers? Are affected workers all doing similar jobs or using the same substances, for example working in the foundry, cutting stone or handling toxic chemicals? Check with other union reps and colleagues, particularly those who have been at the firm or working in the industry for a long time.

But just knowing there is a problem is not a solution. Making the workplace healthier can take a mixture of training, campaigning and union bargaining.

<http://www.hazards.org/cancer/preventionkit/part2.htm>

BAREFOOT Research: A Worker's Manual for Organising On Work Security

International Labour Organisation

Aims of the manual

This manual has been developed to help workers to:

- identify work security problems
- ensure that problems are tackled from a worker centred perspective

- use Barefoot Research tools
- use the results of Barefoot Research to improve their work security
- organise for work security

This manual is aimed at empowering workers to increase their level of control over their own work situations, to protect their health and well being, and to improve their level of basic security.

This is a practical guide for workers providing tools for:

- conducting their own research
- collecting important information and
- transforming that information into action to improve workers' lives

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/info/publ/2barefoot.htm>