

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE: NORA SECTOR BULLETIN



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Why This E-Bulletin?

The short answer is to provide a monthly forum for sharing information on Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) and related safety and health issues.

Since the Sector Council is only able to meet face-to-face one or even two times a year, this Bulletin and periodic conference calls will be keys to staying in contact and sharing information.

Our loftier goal is to provide balanced and relevant information to the Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) Sector Council and its corresponding members. The information selected for this WRT Bulletin will cover four general topics: (1) Information on the extent and magnitude of the injuries and fatalities, (2) Information on the

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Why This E-Bulletin	1
Wholesale and Retail Trade Sector First Meeting	1
Reduce Vehicle Crashes	2
What's Wrong With a 12-Hour Workday	2
What's New in the WRT News	3

known relationships between workplace exposure and potential health consequences, (3) Information on Interventions, including training and (4) guides for dissemination and implementation of effective interventions. Please send articles of interest, topics you want to discuss or questions to the editor, Debbie Hornback, or the coordinator, Vern Anderson, or assistant coordinator, Long Nguyen.

Wholesale and Retail Trade Sector First Meeting

The NORA Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) Sector Council convened for the first time on November 13-14, 2006 in Washington DC.

The WRT Sector Council was formed to accomplish two main goals: (1) to develop a sector-specific research strategic plan for the nation to address the most important work-related health and safety concerns within the Sector, and (2) to maximize impact through partnerships by promoting widespread adoption of improved workplace practices based on research results.

Dr. Paul Schulte, Sector Manager & Director, Education and Information Division, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), chaired the meeting and provided data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on what is

known about recorded injuries and fatalities for both the wholesale and retail sectors and their 146 sub-sectors.

The Sector Council at the November meeting identified four initial priorities for further research:

- Motor Vehicle
- Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)
- Violence
- Falls

Four teams were formed to address each of the identified topics. Each team developed a list of ideas, concerns, and approaches for dealing with these issues. A summary of the meeting including the comments, questions, and issues raised was distributed to the Sector Council during the following week. Additional copies or related information are available from Debbie Hornback. dhornback@cdc.gov

Reduce Vehicle Crashes

Every 12 minutes someone dies in a motor vehicle crash, every 10 seconds an injury occurs, and every 5 seconds a crash occurs. Many of these incidents occur during the workday or during the commute to and from work (OSHA, 2004).

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death and injury for all ages. Crashes on and off the job have far-reaching financial and psychological effects on employees, their coworkers and families, and their employers.

In 2004, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published *Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes*. OSHA notes in their document: *Employees are an employer's most valuable assets. Workplace driver safety programs not only make good business sense but also are a good employee relations tool, demonstrating that employers care about their employees.*



Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes represents a joint effort by NETS, NHTSA and OSHA to reduce motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries in the nation's workforce. This document can be found on the OSHA website at: http://www.osha.gov/Publications/motor_vehicle_guide.html or you can request a copy from Debbie Hornback, Editor WRT Bulletin at: dhornback@cdc.gov or 513-533-8484.

What's Wrong With A 12-Hour Workday?

Long work hours are common in the United States. Research links long work hours to a wide range of risks to workers, families, employers, and the community. The effects of long work hours are influenced by a variety of factors including characteristics of the worker and the job, worker control, pay, and non-work responsibilities.

Risks of long work hours are triggered by several factors: less time to sleep and recover from work, longer exposure to workplace hazards and demands, and less time to attend to the family and other non-work responsibilities. These factors could lead to sleep disturbances, fatigue, stress, negative mood, discomfort, pain, and decreases in functioning.

Additional information on working long hours can be found in the article "Possible Broad Impacts of Long Work Hours" by Claire C. Caruso. Copies of this article can be obtained from Debbie Hornback, Editor, WRT Bulletin at: dhornback@cdc.gov or 513-533-8484



What's New in the WRT News?

The following articles and websites provide additional follow-up information about topics that were mentioned in this issue. If you are interested in receiving copies of these documents, please contact Debbie Hornback, Editor, WRT Bulletin at: dhornback@cdc.gov or 513-533-8484.

1. The US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Industry at a Glance
<http://www.bls.gov/iag/wholretailtrade.htm>
2. OSHA QuickTakes Newsletter
http://www.osha.gov/pls/quicktakes/_subscribe.subscribe Free Newsletter
3. *Possible Broad Impacts of Long Work Hours*, Claire C. Caruso -Industrial Health, 2006. Vol. 44, 531-536. Copies available from WRT Newsletter Editor
4. *Long Hours of Work in the U.S.: Associations with Demographic and Organizational Characteristics, Psychosocial Working Conditions, and Health*. James Grosch, Claire Caruso, Roger Rosa and Steven Sauter, American Journal of Industrial Medicine 49:943-952 (2006).

Please send ideas for Information Sharing or Questions for our next WRT Bulletin in January.

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/wrt/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/eneews/default.html> NIOSH e-News

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