

NOIRS 2000 Abstracts

several locations throughout OSHA. One such emphasis program involves the construction of telecommunication towers.

The Fall Hazard Emphasis Program involved three initial phases which featured stronger enforcement and a better inspection targeting system. Along with increased enforcement, an outreach program was provided to contractors, associations, and labor, that provided education in best work practices and fall protection methods. Further, the Agency also developed internal fall protection coordinators/specialists within each Area Office. This not only enhanced OSHA's expertise, but also provided a compliance assistance resource to interested stakeholders.

The presentation will include the program's results with regards to fatality trends, inspection response times, violation/fall hazards corrected, training successes and how the program established increased respect for OSHA in the construction industry. It will advise as to how certain initiatives within the program were successful in getting companies to require fall protection at heights less than required by the OSHA standards.

E2.4 An Unconventional Surveillance Tool for Tracking Construction Projects in the State of Illinois—Broderick T

The construction industry presents challenges for occupational safety and health professionals conducting research or designing and implementing safety programs. Construction projects are often of short duration and located in remote areas. Regulators find the industry difficult to examine for the same reasons. OSHA uses data supplied by the University of Tennessee (UT) to schedule inspections of construction sites. Supplied to UT by a private sector vendor, the data are at times outdated or erroneous and the projects may have been canceled or may have already been completed. Compliance officers waste valuable time when they drive around attempting to locate specific projects, only to find completed work or vacant land.

A project tracking system in Illinois provides superior accuracy and has the capability to capture extensive information on both publicly (48%) and privately (52%) funded projects. Currently, users of the system have access to information on over 97,000 projects in Illinois and the Northern portions of Indiana and Iowa. Additionally, users of the system can access over 65,000 company directories, for detailed information about each firm.

The contractor files contain histories of projects that have been bid or have been awarded. A resume of each contractor can be produced. The project files describe the scope of work to be performed, whether the job will be union or open shop, estimated cost of construction, anticipated start and end dates, exact location of the job, and key information about

contacts at the site. Information about subcontractors working at or proposed for the project can be found, as well.

This system was initially developed to assist union contractors and building trades unions to identify prospective projects well in advance of contractor selection. This enabled early marketing efforts to target owners with information about the virtues of "building union". Recently, OSHA's Region V office in Chicago initiated a subscription to examine the system's viability as a surveillance tool for locating construction sites. The existing targeting system at University of Tennessee is reportedly ineffective at locating small and short duration projects, such as the highly hazardous tower erection sites. Currently OSHA is field-testing the system and the presenter will provide the latest information on its viability for compliance purposes.

A system with this degree of accuracy may eventually have other uses for health and safety professionals seeking information or conducting intervention work from/with these highly mobile worksites and their similarly mobile workers.

Session: E3.0

Title: Young Worker Injuries: Innovative Interventions and Evaluation Challenges

Category: Special Session

Organized by the NORA Special Populations at Risk and Intervention Effectiveness Research Teams

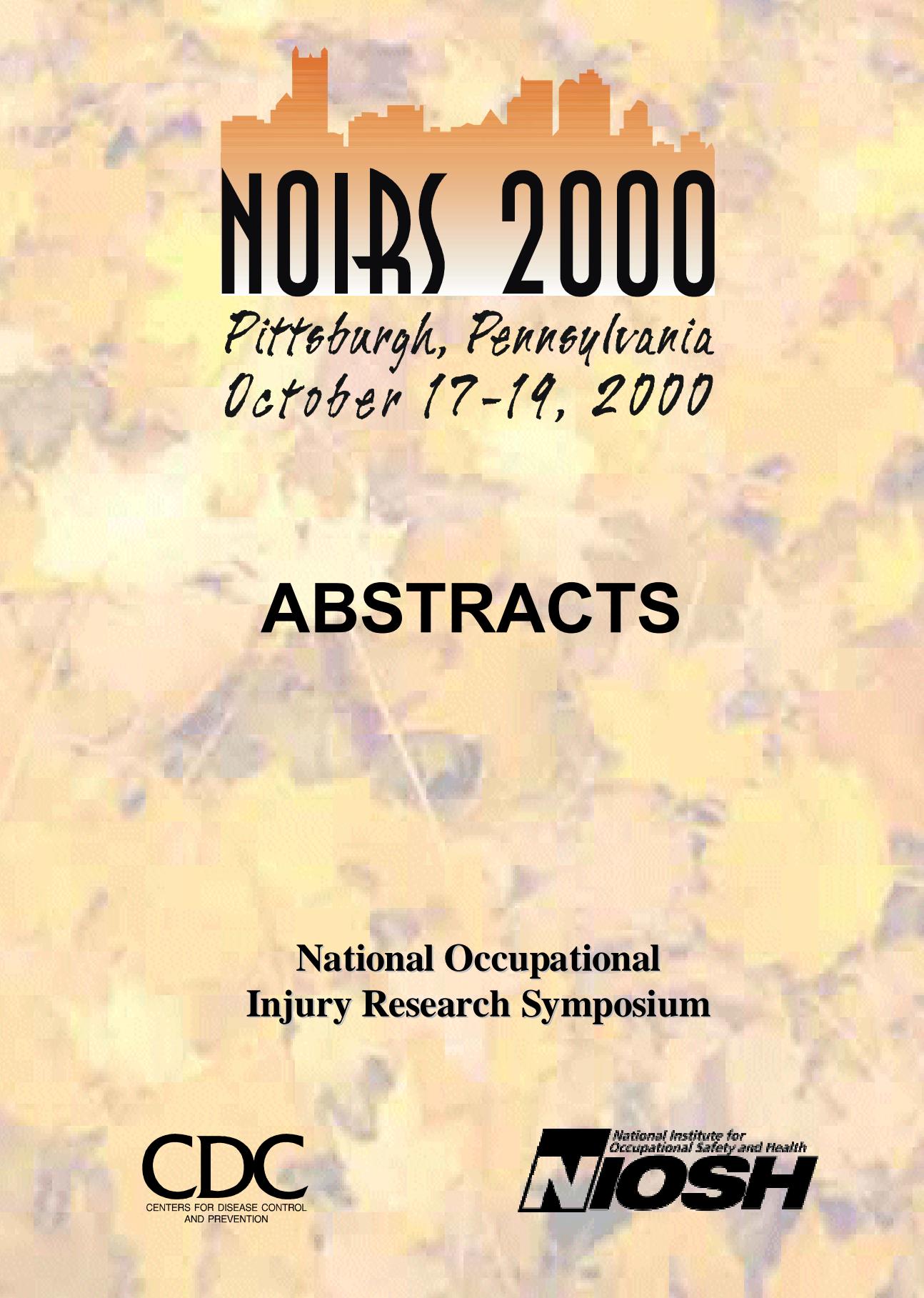
Moderator(s): Dawn Castillo

E3.1 Injuries to Young Workers: An Overview—Davis L

Millions of youth in the United States are employed each year. While work can have important benefits, it also imposes health and safety risks. Each year nearly 70 youth die as a result of work-related injuries and tens of thousands are injured. This presentation will provide an overview of youth employment in the United States and the descriptive epidemiology of both fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries among young workers. Patterns by age, gender, and industry will be described and the available information on comparative injury rates for young and adult workers will be discussed. Risk factors specific to young workers that need to be taken into account in developing intervention activities will be also be addressed. These include, for example, the developmental characteristics of youth and inexperience. Some of the outstanding research questions will also be highlighted.

E3.2 Expanded Opportunities for Prevention of Young Worker Injuries—Sinclair, RC

There is little disagreement that there is a need for information and education about young worker injuries. Youth, parents, employers, teachers, health departments, labor departments, and health care providers tend to be surprisingly uninformed about the hazards youth face at work and what can be done



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ABSTRACTS

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