Theoretically-based Eye Injury Prevention Messages: Working with Carpenters

Catherine Inman[1], Vickie Lewis[2], Larry Jackson[3], Doug Landsittel[4,2], and **Laura Blanciforti[5]**

The reduction of worker exposure to hazards is a concern of many researchers. Changing workplace practices, management policies, and behavioral recommendations are ways occupational risk can be improved. However, little information exists on the combination of interventions with behavioral modifications at work and whether the recommended behavior is properly performed. This study examined whether poor compliance with the use of personal protective equipment, specifically eye protection, in the workplace, can be improved by incorporating the expressed needs of the workers and by using this information to improve the tools of safety communication.

This project examined the safety eye wear usage of a group of carpenters. Focus groups were convened and survey data were collected to determine the carpenters' attitudes, concerns, and problems related to the use of eye protection. This data collection was guided by the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and the information collected was incorporated into the study's safety interventions. An advantage of addressing the concerns of employers and workers is that the safety and health interventions generated are far more likely to be perceived as practical and acceptable for use in the workplace by both workers and employers. Thus, it provides an opportunity to examine the interventions' intended effect of better self-protection. The

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effectiveness of the approach was assessed by field observations collected before and after the intervention. The results indicate that a theory-based approach, such as TPB, can be successfully implemented in an occupational environment and can supply practitioners with practical and effective eye injury prevention program.

9:15-10:00 **Opening Keynote Session: Occupational Safety and Health Education, Training and Communication: Needs and Priorities for the Future**

John Howard, MD, MPH, JD, LLM
Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Washington, DC, USA

10 am **Break**
Promenade Lobby
Lobby Level

10:30-12:30 pm **Concurrent Scientific Sessions**

Communicating Hazard Prevention

McKeldon Room
Cabana Level, South

Moderator: *Sergio Iavicoli, MD, PhD,* Italy

- Trends and Priorities in Occupational Safety and Health in the European Union. *Sergio Iavicoli, MD, PhD*, Italy. Coauthor: *C. Grandi*
- Hazard Communication in the Workplace. *Jinky Leilanie D. Lu*, Philippines
- The European Campaign 2001 for OSH - Using an International Communication Code in a Regional Reality in Italy. *Idillio Tagliaferro, MD*, Italy. Coauthor: *Marco Nardi*
- Supervisory Training Practices in the Construction Industry. *Jacqueline Villnave, MHS, CIH*, USA. Coauthors: *Steven Hecker, MSPH; Marc Weinstein, PhD*
- Communicating Risk: A DOD Perspective. *R. Craig Postlewaite, DVM, MPH,* USA

Targeting Risk Communication

Lincoln Room
Cabana Level, North

Moderator: *Donald Eggerth, PhD,* USA

- Applying Communication Theory to Workplace Safety Messages. *Donald Eggerth, PhD*, USA
- Theoretically-based Eye Injury Prevention Messages: Working with Carpenters. *Catherine Inman, MD, MPH,* USA. Coauthors: *Vickie Lewis, MA*; *Larry Jackson, PhD*; *Doug Landsittel, PhD; Laura Blanciforti, PhD*
  Evaluation of a NIOSH Alert to Reduce the Risk to Fire Fighters from Structural Collapse. *Jennifer Wellbourne, PhD*, USA. Coauthor: *Steve Booth-Butterfield, EdD*

October 28-30, 2002 • Baltimore, Maryland, USA

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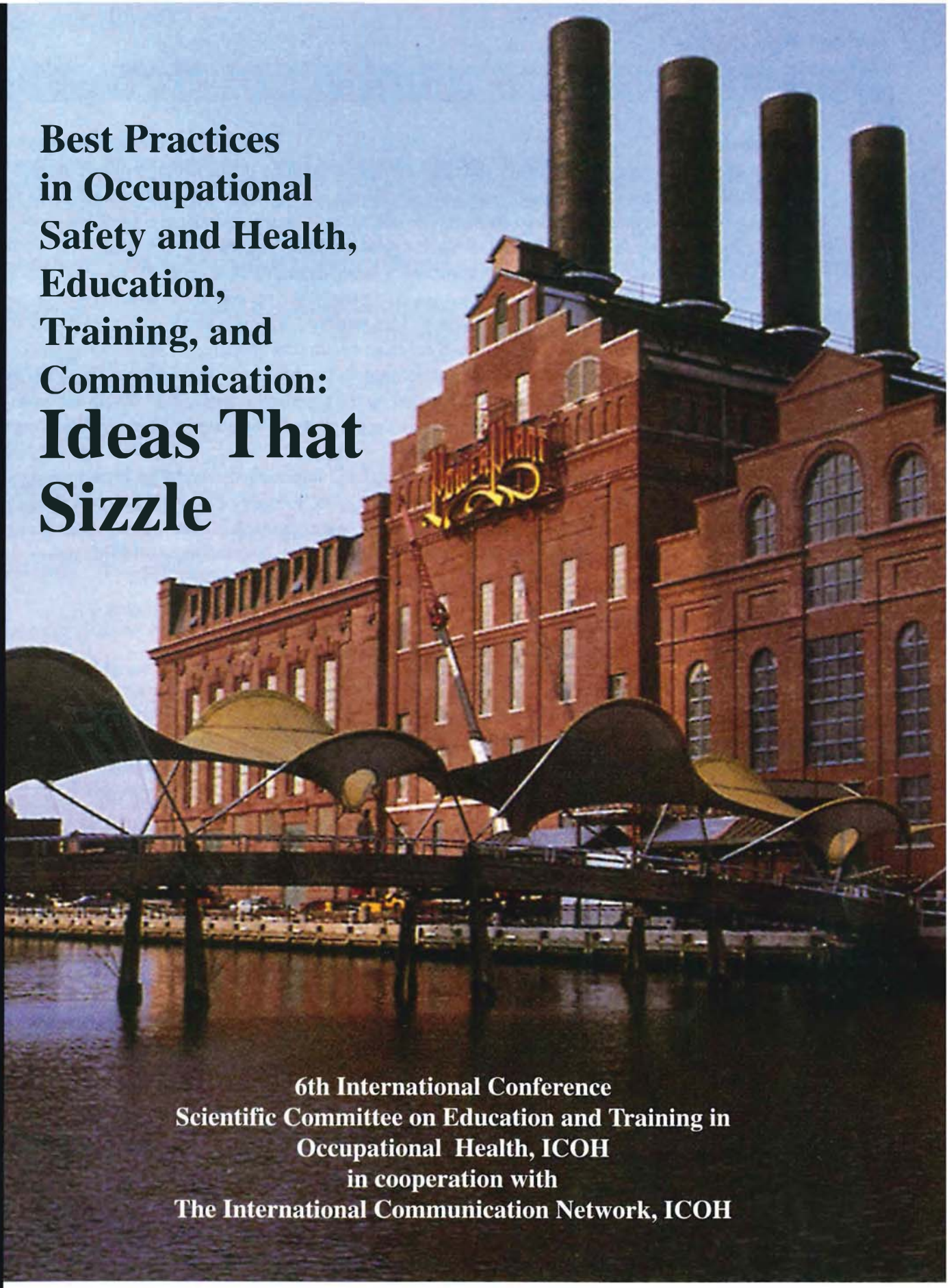

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