

POWER



PARTNERSHIPS

**CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS**

MAY 21-23, 2002

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, Illinois

Pan, C.S. 'Drywall Ergonomics,' workshop session was presented at the 12th Annual Construction Safety and Health Conference and Exposition, May 21-23, 2002, Chicago, IL and was published in the conference proceedings (p. 333).

DRYWALL ERGONOMICS

The proposed workshop session on drywall ergonomics will be 2.5 hours, and consist of 5-6 presentations. The intended audience will include drywall contractors, drywall manufacturers, drywall workers, safety and medical professionals, state and federal government researchers, policymakers, and labor/union leaders. The level of technicality will be intermediate.

The proposed session chair forwards this idea for a workshop due to the continued high rate of injuries to workers in the drywall industry. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, 2001) indicate that a significant proportion of the workers employed in four occupations regularly or irregularly conduct drywall-related activities. These construction occupations associated with the drywall activities include 187,000 drywall installers, 1,398,000 carpenters, 603,000 painters, and 920,000 construction laborers. Therefore, over 40% of construction workers (7,135,000) will benefit from any ergonomics recommendations of injury prevention and reduction to come from this session.

Expected presentation topics will include recent information associated with drywall handling techniques and policies, tool redesign, control methods, and intervention techniques. In addition to each individual presentations within the session, the chair and each presenter will lead a discussion to solicit input from the audience regarding their observations and opinions from work in the field. The chair also hopes to solicit ideas for future research for the research community as a whole.