

## Commuting Accidents Involving Workers

Published on: Apr 17, 2013 @ 6:49

### Commuting accidents involving workers



A large portion of the job safety focus in the industry concerning occupational safety and health is the one related to commuting. It is an unfortunate fact that almost 80% of the accidents and most of those are occurring on the way to or from work.

There are more than 2,000 fatal commuting accidents each year and that translates into 14-20 people killed every day. In Singapore and within the industrial sector about 80% of the accidents and most of those are occurring on the way to or from work.

In Malaysia, according to Road Traffic Department (RTD) data, there were 1,300 work-related deaths in 2011.

The rate of these deaths is due to commuting accidents. There is a general belief in both countries that industrial accidents are the danger but the number of commuting accidents has increased by almost 80% in the past ten years. There 17,882 accidents in 2011, up from 10,000 in 2001.

Statistics from a conference for work force communities showed that 80% of the accidents occurred while commuting to and from work, with 70% occurring while on the way to work and 10% on the way back.

The survey also found that 80% of cases involved employees walking to the morning site and 20% on the way back to the office.

It is important that the employer is aware of the risks of commuting accidents involving workers. The employer should be aware of the following:

1. Safe walking: Start from the work place.
2. Safe motorcycle riding programme and defensive driving programme (DDP).
3. Applied research grants and
4. Establishing commuting safety management system (CMS).

Employers have a moral obligation to adopt a proactive approach to managing occupational road risks.

They can do much to change the driving attitude and behaviour of their employees. They can help create safe driving, using safe vehicles and provide driver training to prevent road accidents.

Employers also have a duty to protect their employees and other road users by adopting the research of previous road and

to ensure the very high level business focus which will keep us away from accidents, including our fully direct control costs, but we still have higher accident potentials and poor public image.

Companies which later action to prevent the safety of their staff while driving will achieve major cost savings, improve their image and make significant contribution to meeting road safety targets.

Employers who are concerned with the safety and well-being of their employees can help in addressing the problem by introducing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable training programme for their employees targeted to commuting accidents and commuting safety management.

Much has been said about road safety but much more remains to be done.

In this regard, employers from both the public and private sector have an important role to play and have responsibility to promote occupational safety and health among their employees.

It is the final analysis, what determines safety and health, whether it is at the workplace or on the road, is behavioural change and commitment to make safety a culture and way of life.

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