Protecting the Safety and Health of Workers in Nonstandard Work Relationships

David Michaels, PhD, MPH

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

Milken Institute School of Public Health

The George Washington University





August 16, 2012

Lawrence "Day" Davis' first day at work

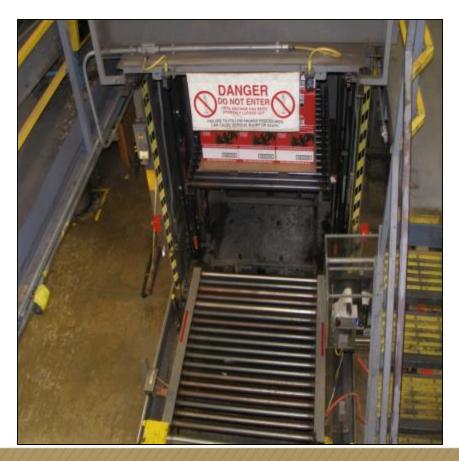


Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



What would you do?





Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

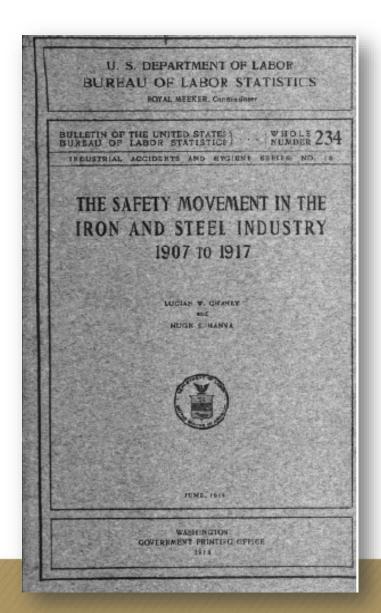


Why Are Temp Workers At High Risk of Injury?

All the reasons John just mentioned

New workers are at greatly increased risk.





Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DO

Table 51.—AVERAGE NUMBER OF PRESS HANDS AND OF EMPLOYEES IN OTHER OCCU-PATIONS IN THE METAL TRADES INJURED PER DAY AFTER BEGINNING WORK ON MACHINE, BY SEX.

Occupation.	Average number injured per day.				
	1st day.	2d day to end of 1st week.	2d week to end of 1st month.	2d month to end of 6th month.	7th month to end of 1st year.
Press hands: Males Females	77 252	13 33	3 4	0. 78	0. 21 . 26
Total	329	46	7	1. 49	. 47
Other occupations: Males. Females	89 42	25 12	8 2	3.00 .69	1.00 .32
Total	131	37	10	3. 69	1. 32
All occupations: Males. Females.	166 294	- 38 45	11 6	3.00 1.00	1.00
Total	460	83	17	4.00	1.57

This table shows a very great excess of accident occurrence on the first day on the machine. If this could be placed on a rate basis, it would be still more striking.

Source: Safety Movement in Iron and Steel Industry 1907-1917. US Dept. of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1918.





Why Are Temp Workers At High Risk of Injury?

- All the reasons John just mentioned
- New workers are at greatly increased risk.
- Host employers don't have the same commitment to temporary employees as to permanent ones.
- Employer who bears the risk of the injury (staffing agency) does not control safety and health investment.



OSHA Temporary Worker Initiative

- Extensive outreach and education, with American Staffing Association
 - Recommended Practices
 - Compliance Assistance Bulletins
- In all inspections, ask about temp workers' presence, hazardous exposures, and training they have received.



UNIVERSITY

Joint Employment

Legally, both the host employer and the staffing agency are employers of the temporary worker.

Shared control over worker = Shared responsibility for worker





Voluntary Accreditation Program



An Initiative of the American Staffing Association and National Safety Council





Workers at Multi-Employer Sites



BP Texas City Explosion in 2015. 15 dead, 180 injured

OSHA's Multi-Employer Citation Policy (MECP)

- Creating employer
- Exposing employer
- Correcting employer
- Controlling employer



How Many Workers are Misclassified?

- Proportion of construction workers misclassified in
 - North Carolina: 35.2%
 - Texas: 37.7%
 - Florida: 15.5%
- More than 500,000 in those 3 states, alone

EU Terminology: "Bogus Self-Employment"





Gig Economy



Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Some Short-Term Solutions

- Stronger OSHA Enforcement and Penalties
 - Criminal Penalties for C-Suites and Directors
- Stronger Enforcement against Misclassification
- No More Contracts for Labor Law Violators
- Bill of Rights for Temp Workers
- Increased Liability for Host Employers





Longer Term: Duty of Care

"You are responsible for the health and safety of those in your workplace, including visitors. And, if you're self-employed, you're responsible for your own safety and the safety of others."

