

**10th EWHN Conference for
labour & occupational
health and safety
representatives and professionals**

ewhn
WORKHAZARDS NETWORK

"Workers finding a voice in a new Europe"

Friday September 29th to Sunday October 1st 2006,
Baltic Beach Hotel, Majori, Jurmula,
Latvia

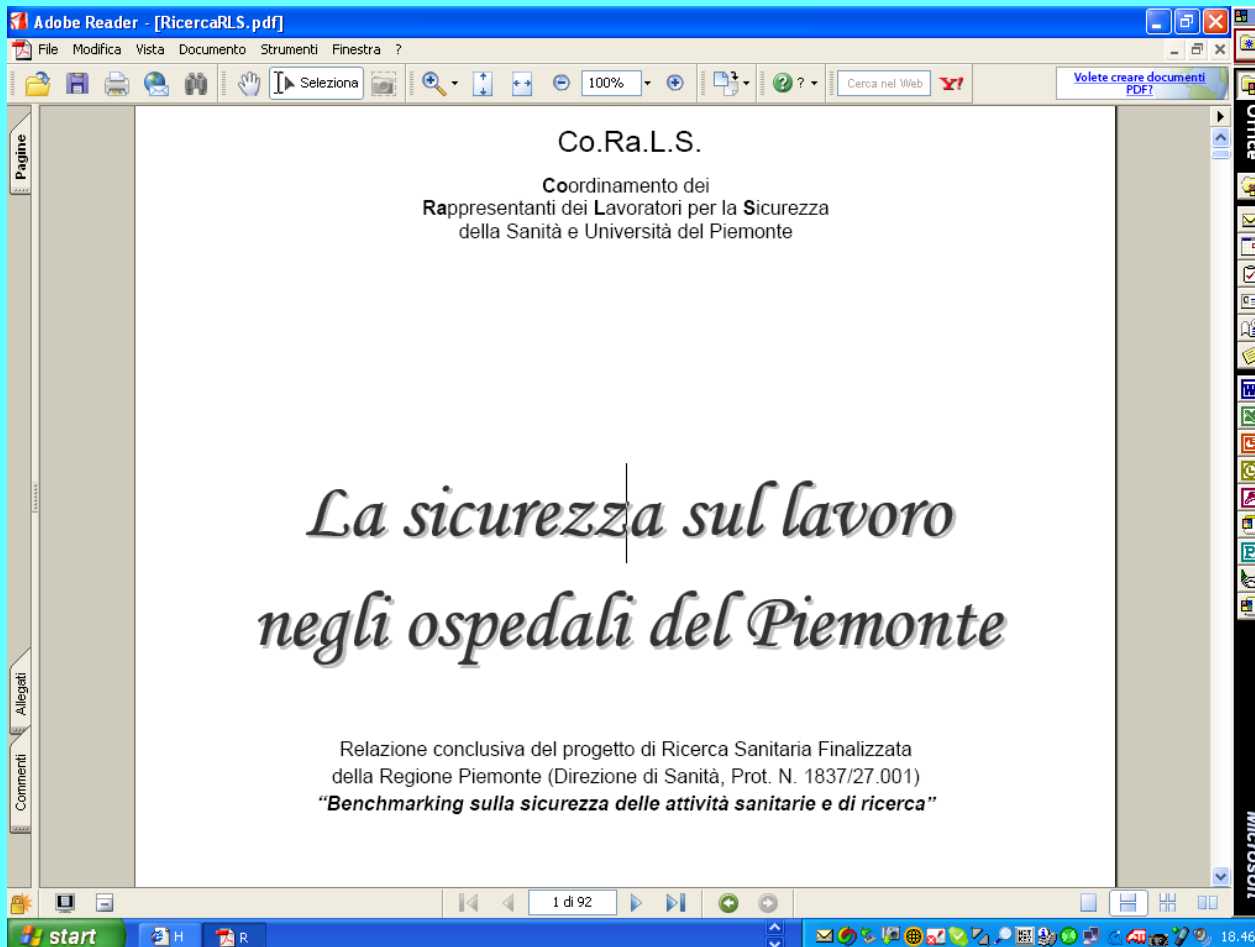


Info meeting IM13

RSI and Health Personnel

Presenter: Graziano Frigeri (Italy)

A Turin Safety Reps' experience



Health and
Safety in
Piedmont's
Hospitals
(May, 2005)



Research team

- 76 Safety Reps of 28 Public Health Institutions
 - 9 Public Hospitals
 - 2 University Hospitals
 - 28 Local Health Districts



Scientific Background

- Musculoskeletal disorders affect 70-89% of nurses
- They affect mainly lumbar and cervical spinal column and shoulder
- People assisting the elderly are more affected with annual accidents' rate of 46% (column and shoulder)
- Major risk factors are patient handling and assistance requests



Results (2001-2002)

- 2392 Accidents: (annual rate: 24,43 per 1000 workers)
- 502 Back accidents
- There is a statistical link between lacking of prevention programmes and back accidents' rates.
- There is a statistical link between lacking of correct risk assessment and back accident's rate



Conclusions

- Correct risk assessment is crucial to prevent accidents and musculoskeletal diseases
- Often risk assessment is made only as bureaucratic duty
- There is also a problem in identifying correct methods to evaluate patient handling and postural risk
- Involving SR and workers in risk assessment is crucial



Suggestions

- There is a general need to reduce accidents, and specially back accidents in hospital and health care organisations
- Structural measures need to be accompanied by organisational ones
- Identify and use correct methods to evaluate risk, and in particular organisational, postural and patient handling risk
- Actively involve workers and SR in assessing risk and identifying prevention measures



Aim of the info meeting

- Show the experience
- Discuss it
- Listen other experiences
- Try to organise a panel to give answer to former (and other) demands

Thanks for attention and help

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