

# IMPACTO ON SAFETY

ISO 9001:2000

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**IMPACTO™**  
Protective Products Inc.

Spring 2006

Newsletter

## Inside This Issue

Hot off the Press  
Message from the Boss  
Literature Update  
Who's Who  
Hand Arm Vibration...  
Health Tip  
Product Show Case  
Customer Recognition  
New Products Showcase  
Vibration Statistics  
International RSI  
Awareness Day  
Tradeshows Schedule  
Contact Us

## Hot off the Press

Welcome to the Spring 2006 issue of IMPACTO ON SAFETY. Warmer weather, fresh cut grass and flowers. In this issue vibration is the main focus. Take a look at our tradeshow schedule and plan to visit us at one of our many stops. The Product Showcase has a couple of interesting items.

Until next time, work *safe*, play *safe*, be *safe*.

## Message From The Boss

The spring and a new year always brings renewed expectations. Our business first quarter was the best in three years and the success was shared in all markets. We hope a harbinger of even better time to come. The market will continue to demand efficiency and value and those priorities will be high on our to do list. During the tradeshow season we will again be showing some new products as well as renewing the emphasis on some key market leaders. I want to thank you all for your support and I look forward to seeing you all again on the circuit.

## Who's Who

Bob Harris, Sales Manager for the western United States is this issue's featured employee. Bob joined the Impacto Sales team on October 2004. Bob comes to Impacto with tenure in the safety business, 40 years to be exact. Whether it be as a sales person, manufacturer's rep or a distributor the knowledge he brings is invaluable.



Bob had emergency bypass surgery as a Christmas present last year so the season was more exciting than usual and certainly a lot quieter than usual in the New Year. Bob's recuperation went well despite his impatience and he will soon be bugging you all in person.

Bob and grade school buddy, Judy have been happily married for 42 years. Bob enjoys boating, jet skiing, golfing and playing with their pup, Zoë «The Terminator».

## Literature Update

Updating literature is a never ending task. Check out the new look of the **Body Protection** flyer. Now there is a **Knee Protection** piece. The NEW **Rhino Tuff** insole flyer is also available. Call for your copies.



# Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome



First of all, what is hand-arm vibration syndrome?

It is a condition that has the potential to affect any worker who uses powered hand held or hand guided tools as a major part of their job. Workers whose hands are regularly exposed to high vibration may suffer from several kinds of effects to the hands and arms, including impaired blood circulation and damage to the nerves and muscles. It is felt as a tingling or numbness in the fingers or where finger blanching occurs. You may be familiar with other names such as «vibration white finger» or «dead finger».

Repetitive trauma associated with excessive vibration directed into the hands and arms is a significant health problem in U.S. industry. It is estimated that between two to four million workers are exposed to on-the-job hand-arm vibration in the U.S. and that around 50% of these workers either have or will develop symptoms associated with **hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)**.

HAVS is associated with the destruction of the small blood vessels and with nerve damage in the fingers. HAVS is caused by excessive vibration directed into the hands from



vibrating hand tools and vibration-intensive work processes. Symptoms associated with HAVS usually show up as a combination of finger blanching, particularly in response to cold, and progressive finger numbness. Symptoms associated with HAVS were first classified by the Taylor-Pelmar Classification System. The classification of HAVS symptoms was later refined by the Stockholm Vibration Syndrome Classification System. In advanced stages, HAVS can result in the loss of tactile discrimination and manipulative dexterity. When the level of vibration exposure to the hands is excessively high, symptoms associated with HAVS can appear within as little as one year's time.

The latency period for hand-arm vibration syndrome is the time it takes for the first symptoms to appear. The latency period is determined by many factors. The most significant

factor, however, is the amplitudes of the vibration energy into the hands and arms or the vibration exposure.

Vibration exposure is affected by the types of vibrating tools that are used by a worker and the work processes in which these tools are used. The latency period associated with the onset of HAVS symptoms can be significantly increased by reducing vibration exposure. This can be accomplished by adjusting work processes to minimize vibration exposure and exposure time, by selecting low-vibration tools, and by using anti-vibration gloves.

April 2002, ANSI confirmed a standard establishing a means to evaluate the performance of gloves designed or marketed as anti-vibration or vibration reducing products. The standard is identified as **ANSI S3.40-2002: ISO 10819:1996**. The number reflects the fact that the standard is identical to the European/International Standard **ISO 10819**, which has been in place in its current form since 1996. ISO Standard 10819 specifies the amplitude of vibration transmissibility that must be achieved for a glove to be classified as an anti-vibration glove.

The standard requires the overall vibration transmissibility of a glove to be measured for mid frequencies ( $TR_M$  frequency range from 16 – 400 Hz) and for high frequencies ( $TR_H$  frequency range from 100 – 1600 Hz).

**Glove Material  $TR_M < 1.0$   $TR_H < 0.6$**

## Bubble Glove™ Featuring Patented Air Bubble Glove™ Technology

Developed specifically for use in gloves to reduce the vibration energy transmitted into the hands. Made of a non-permeable air bladder with individual air cells that won't bottom out.

The Bubble Glove™ provides long lasting protection from hand-arm vibration injuries. The Bubble Glove™ is certified under the European Anti-Vibration glove standard ISO 10819 and ANSI S3.40-2002: EN ISO 10819:1996. Available in many styles and designs including with wrist supports to optimize protection in most applications.



**ANSI S3.40-2002: ISO 10819:1996**

**IMPACTO™ AIR GLOVE™ RESULTS**

**$TR_M = 0.75 < 1$**

**$TR_H = 0.45 < 0.6$**

Standard criteria are, thus, fulfilled

# Health Tip

## How to survive a heart attack when alone

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed to be in order. Without help, the person whose heart is beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about ten seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously:

♥ A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

♥ A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

♥ Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Tell other people, it could save their lives!

# New Products Showcase

## Rhino Tuff® Puncture Resistant Insoles



- ✂ Stainless steel plate provides protection against puncture wounds caused by nails, iron shards, rocks and scrap metal
- ✂ Meets and exceeds minimum force resistance of 270 Lbs. as specified in ASTM F2413 (formerly ANSI Z41-1991 and 1999, Section 5.3.2)
- ✂ Helps prevent the risk of bruising and infection of the foot
- ✂ The Orthotic Support System consists of heel cup, longitudinal arch support and metatarsal support for improved foot stability

## 841-00 Camo Kneepad

Form fitting, light weight camouflage knee pad. Molded foam pad with ribbed kneeling surface. Single elastic strap with hook and loop closure.

- ✂ Maintenance and assembly
- ✂ Comfortable non-slip protection
- ✂ Provides impact and cumulative trauma protection



## 2005 Customer Recognition

Over the years IMPACTO has recognized customer contributions with annual awards. Customer awards are presented to the top three customers. Last year the winners were Choctaw-Kaul Safety, Detroit, MI., ARCO Ltd., Hull, United Kingdom and Greenham, Islesworth, United Kingdom.

Ed Lehtinen presented the Top Customer award to David Shall from Choctaw-Kaul. The United Kingdom awards will be presented in May 2006.

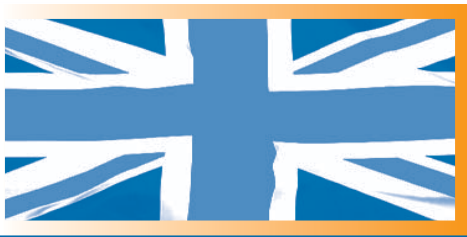


## FACT

Musculoskeletal disorders with days away from work

By nature if illness or injury, USA 2003	
Sprains, strains, tears	76.1 %
Back pain, hurt back	5.4 %
Carpal tunnel syndrome	5.1 %
Soreness, pain, hurt (except back)	5.0 %
Hernia	4.8 %
System & connective tissue disorder (excluded tendonitis)	2.0 %
Tendonitis	1.5 %

Source: National Safety Council "Injury Facts" 2005-2006



## Vibration Statistics

☞ The number of annual new cases of Vibration White Finger (VWF) assessed for disablement benefit under the Industrial Injuries Scheme (IIS) was 1,015 in 2003/04 (1,010 males and 5 females) down from 1,775 (1,765 males and 10 females) in 2002/03, and lower than in the preceding seven years.

☞ An estimated provisional total of 435 cases of hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) were seen by rheumatologists and occupational physicians and in the OPRA/MOSS reporting schemes in 2004 compared with 1,131 cases in the previous year 2003.

☞ The Medical Research Council (MRC) [PDF] survey in 1997-98 gave a prevalence estimate of 288,000 sufferers from vibration white finger (VWF) in Great Britain (255,000 males and 33,000 females respectively) see report summary "findings on health".



☞ The industry group with by far the highest average rate of new assessments of disability in 2002-2004 was extraction, energy and water supply, due to the relatively large number of claims made by current or former coal miners.

☞ The number of new cases of carpal tunnel syndrome assessed for disablement benefit has decreased for the first time since 1992 with 820 cases compared to 1,030 cases in 2002/03 (935 males and 95 females).

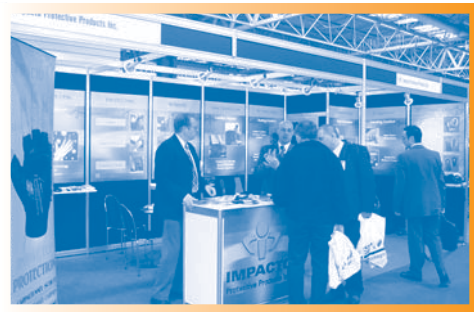
To download the Health and Safety statistics highlights 2004/05 go to <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/hssh0405.pdf> information leaflet produced by leading tool manufactures Hilti.

## International RSI Awareness Day

February 28 has been named International RSI Awareness Day in Europe. «Repetitive Strain Injury» or «RSI» covers a range of work-related musculoskeletal disorders. These disorders can affect both upper and lower limbs including the shoulders and neck, the wrist, elbows and knees, and can be caused by work involving awkward postures and movements or of a highly repetitive or fast-paced nature. The European Week Campaign in 2007 will focus on these issues in more detail.

## Tradeshaw Schedule

- ☞ IAPA May 1 - 3, 06 ~ Toronto, ON ~ Booth # 828
- ☞ Safety & Health Expo May 9 - 11, 06 ~ Birmingham, UK ~ Booth H31
- ☞ PPHSA (Pulp and Paper) May 16 - 17, 06 ~ Toronto, ON ~ Booth # 7
- ☞ International Lineman's Rodeo & Expo Oct 5-7, 06 ~ Bonner Springs, KS ~ Booth # 206
- ☞ National Safety Congress Nov 6 - 8, 06 ~ San Diego, CA ~ Booth #4039
- ☞ National Ergonomics Dec 1 - 5, 06 ~ Las Vegas, CA



## FACT

The U.S. Department of Labor defines a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) as an injury or disorder of the muscles, nerves, tendons, joints, cartilage, or spinal discs. MSDs do not include disorders caused by slips, trips, falls, motor vehicle accidents, or similar accidents. In 2004, MSDs accounted for 402,700, or 32 percent, of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work.

## Contact Us

Don't Forget! If you have an interesting story that you would like to share please contact Barbara or Nelsa at (888) 232-0031 or you can E-mail your story to [bgoodine@2protect.com](mailto:bgoodine@2protect.com) or [ntinoco@2protect.com](mailto:ntinoco@2protect.com)

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