

JD Holder et al. JOEM. (2006) Vol.48#10 p 1047 - 1053

Firefighter Heart Presumption Retirements in Massachusetts 1997–2004

Heart disease is incompatible with safety critical highly aerobic work. The paper finds that manifestation of heart disease while at work was related to alarm response and fire suppression work. However, manifestation was more likely to occur off duty and among those with classic risk factors for heart disease e.g. hypertension and obesity [neither of which is used to screen out unfit firefighters in the USA].

K Kreiss et al. JOEM (2006) Vol.48#10 p 1062-1069

Risk Factors for Asthma among Cosmetology Professionals in Colorado

Post hire asthma incidence was associated with the following specific work tasks with relative risks exceeding 2.5: application of artificial nails, hairstyling and shaving. 15% of cosmetologists who had left this field had done so because of health problems acquired on the job. Asthma and dermatitis were the main reasons.



MMWR weekly (2006) Vol.55(28) p 1040-1042

Chikungunya Fever Diagnosed Among International Travelers --- United States, 2005—2006

Chikungunya fever virus is endemic to Africa and Asia only and is transmitted by mosquito bite. The fever is characterised by severe joint pain, headache and malaise with skin rash in half of cases. Outbreaks are sustained by human-mosquito-human transmission. Incubation takes 2 to 4 days; disease lasts 3 to 7 days. There is no vaccine; prevention is achieved through avoidance of mosquito bites. To date, no known local mosquito-borne transmission has occurred in Europe or other non-indigenous areas.

[Editor's note: further transmission of disease would be expected in non-indigenous areas if the human carrier is viraemic and there are suitable mosquitoes present. Every effort should be made to isolate the carrier from mosquitoes for a week after disease onset. Given the nature of the symptoms it would be expected that some people would develop chronic pain syndrome or fibromyalgia after infection.]

NIOSH RI 9668

Effectiveness of Selected Diesel Particulate Matter Control Technologies for Underground Mining Applications: Isolated Zone Study, 2004

The report finds that a water diesel fuel emulsion reduced the mass concentration of elemental carbon in engine exhaust by up to 85%. Mass concentration could be related to PM₁₀ concentration. Emulsions tended to produce smaller particulates [average diameter 60nm compared with 95nm for standard diesel] and higher number of particles by around 14%.

DWP Press Release 18th Oct 2006

Labour market figures – employment above 29 million for first time

There are 608,000 job vacancies and earnings growing at an average 4.2% per annum.
The number of people claiming incapacity benefits fell 52,000 in the year to August. [total in the region of 2.7 million]
The number of redundancies fell from 155,000 per quarter to 135,000.
Employment in the 50 – 65 age group was up by 200,000 compared with Oct 2005.

EEA Report No9/2006 ISSN 1725-9177

Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2006

UK contribution to the report was made by AEA Technology.

In 2004 EU greenhouse gas [CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases] emissions were 5% below 1990 levels. The Kyoto targets for 2010 were agreed at 8% below the 1990 level but projections for 2010 are that the levels will actually be just 2.1% below the 1990 level. In 2004 the original EU-15 [at the time of the Kyoto protocol] were 0.9% below base level. This reduction in net emissions could be

doubled by operating carbon sinks [forestry and re-vegetation mainly]. Transport is a major factor in increasing emissions. Recycled vegetable oil can be offset against the targets and there will be pressure to store and process such oils, adding to pollution risks.

In the UK green house gas emissions per capita were 11 tonnes in 2004.

