

# Finding out what harms us....

## Tools

- Risk Assessment
- Inspection
- H&S Committee
- Small group discussion
- Mapping: individual, workplace, 'world'
- Surveys/interviews (5 key concerns for you...)
- Observation
- Photo/videos/picture boards
- Specific campaigns
- Following up individual cases

## DIY Research, Hazards magazine

A do-it-yourself resource section on health and safety research in the workplace.

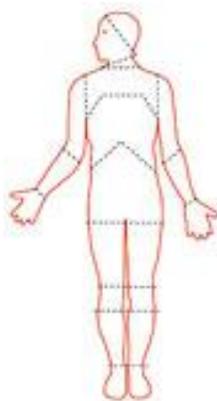
<http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/> including: mapping, surveys, worker-centred research, organising for safety, case histories

## Mapping



## Body Mapping

Ears  
Neck and back  
Breasts  
Blood and heart  
Kidneys  
Reproduction  
Skin  
Muscles  
Legs, knees and feet  
Joints



Eyes  
Mouth and jaw  
Nose and throat  
Chest and lungs  
Stomach  
Liver  
Bladder  
Arms, wrists and hands  
Feet and ankles  
Central nervous system  
Peripheral nerves

<http://www.hazards.org/detective/index.htm>



## **Hazards Cancer Prevention Kit**

This online resource forms part of a *Hazards* 'Zero cancer' campaign. The initiative promotes participatory approaches to reducing occupational and environmental cancer risks.

It is a project of Stirling University's Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Research Group (OEHSRG) and is coordinated by OEHSRG's Professor Rory O'Neill and researcher Jawad Qasrawi.

### ***Hazards Work Cancer Prevention Kit***

**Part 1** Occupational cancer briefing - Work started it. Unions will stop it.

**Part 2** Building a union cancer campaign

**Part 3** Practical advice on reducing the workplace cancer risk

**Part 4** Resources and further information

**Part 5** Fighting cancer - print off and use feature

<http://www.hazards.org/cancer/preventionkit/index.htm>

### **Workplace detectives**

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If you think sticking your head in the text books will give you the all the answers about workplace cancer risks, you'd be wrong. Barely one in every 100 chemicals used at work have been systematically tested.

Finding out if there is a workplace risk requires union vigilance. That means doing your own detective work. Unions have been instrumental in first identifying a number of workplace cancers, from bladder cancer in dye workers to liver cancer in vinyl chloride workers.

Remember, keep it as simple as possible. A quick discussion at a union meeting might provide all the information you need. Just make sure you involve the workforce – they know their jobs, their workmates and the real hazards of the job.

Ask around. Has one part of the workplace got high levels of sickness absence? Are you aware of cases of cancer in workers or ex-workers? Are affected workers all doing similar jobs or using the same substances, for example working in the foundry, cutting stone or handling toxic chemicals? Check with other union reps and colleagues, particularly those who have been at the firm or working in the industry for a long time.

But just knowing there is a problem is not a solution. Making the workplace healthier can take a mixture of training, campaigning and union bargaining.

<http://www.hazards.org/cancer/preventionkit/part2.htm>

## **BAREFOOT Research: A Worker's Manual for Organising On Work Security**

*International Labour Organisation*

### ***Aims of the manual***

This manual has been developed to help workers to:

- identify work security problems
- ensure that problems are tackled from a worker centred perspective
- use Barefoot Research tools
- use the results of Barefoot Research to improve their work security
- organise for work security

This manual is aimed at empowering workers to increase their level of control over their own work situations, to protect their health and well being, and to improve their level of basic security.

This is a practical guide for workers providing tools for:

- conducting their own research
- collecting important information and
- transforming that information into action to improve workers' lives

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/info/publ/2barefoot.htm>