



## The Value of a Successful Communication in the Workplace Prevention

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Communication is a process which enables groups and individuals to increase their control over determining health factors acting on people's lifestyles to promote health. Many of the targets of occupational health and safety and environmental health cannot be achieved without a good communication and a full participation of all the stakeholders (employers, employees and occupational health experts) [1]. Without good communication about health and safety issues, our best injury prevention efforts will be wasted. The way we communicate about safety will influence whether or not people will understand and participate in the safety process, and the language we use will often determine whether the process is accepted or rejected [2]. The diffusion of recent regulations on work safety has captured mass-media's interest on work accident. Print media are accurate in reporting news, but they do not serve as source of education in work safety's issues. Information is mainly focused around catastrophic events, with headlines inducing negative emotions. Very few articles contain a critical discussion of methods and operational proposals tested around the country [3]. Communication is essential, to keep workers safe. Workers must know about the specific risks they face, the specific prevention measures being taken, and any emergency action plans. This information should be provided in clear, non-technical language that will be easily understood. Successful prevention requires: a) information on the causal relationship between risk factors and health outcome, b) knowledge of the mechanism of action of hazardous factors and how the causal relationship can be

broken, d) resources, tools and mechanisms for the implementation of preventive measures, e) political, managerial and target group support for the preventive programme [4].

Good communication is fundamental to the health sector in a globalized world, since it may influence national and local policies, health promotion campaigns and correct operational practices. About prevention in the workplace, through communication, it is necessary to improve the skills of experts, to promote educational initiatives at school, universities and always focussing more on interdisciplinary and developing new ways of approaching problems concerning health and safety.

### References

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