



# Occupational health & safety in waste handling

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November 2019

# Occupational risks from working with waste





#### Occupational risks from working with waste handling

Biological impacts (micro-organisms)

Chemicals

Accidents

Vermin

Other physical impacts



# Biological impacts (micro-organisms)

Bacteria (endotoxin and infections)

Fungi (mold and yeast: allergies and infections)

Pathogens, if present (infectious bacteria and parasites); particularly present in medical waste, wet municipal waste and sewage

Ways of exposure

Inhalation of dust and aerosols



Direct contact (cuts, mouth, eyes)

#### Conditions from inhalation of microorganisms and organic dust

Allergic alveolitis	Symptoms: Breathing impairment, coughing and tiredness, sometimes soar muscles, headache, feeling of pressure on the chest, fever (more rarely). The condition can last for month and can result in permanent reduction in lung functioning.
Toxic alveolitis	Also called ODTS (Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome).  Symptoms: Like allergic alveolitis, but generally shorter (~12 days). Can be confused with influenza.
Asthma	Asthma can be caused by irritation of the respiratory system or an allergic reaction to dust (endotoxins and fungal spores).  Symptoms: Imparied breathing, lack of breath, coughing. Can cause chronically imparied lung function.
Chronical bronchitis	<b>Symptoms:</b> Coughing with spit. Can get worse with continued exposure. Can cause chronically impaired lung function.



#### Infections from contact with wet organic waste

Stomach problems and nausea

Irritation of eyes, nose and throat

Eczema

Infectious disease, such as Hepatitis, Weil's disease



# Occupational risks from chemicals, for example:

Dioxin, furans and PACs/PAHs from open burning (highly toxic, cancer)

Mercury (highly toxic, brain damage and many others)

Organic solvents (brain damage, etc.)

Aggressive cleaning agents (etchings/burns, etc.)

Pesticides, biocides, etc. (many highly toxic effects)

Asbestos, mineral wool and other fibres (cancer, lung diseases)

Oil products (many effects)

And many more

#### Ways of exposure

Inhalation of dust, fumes and aerosols

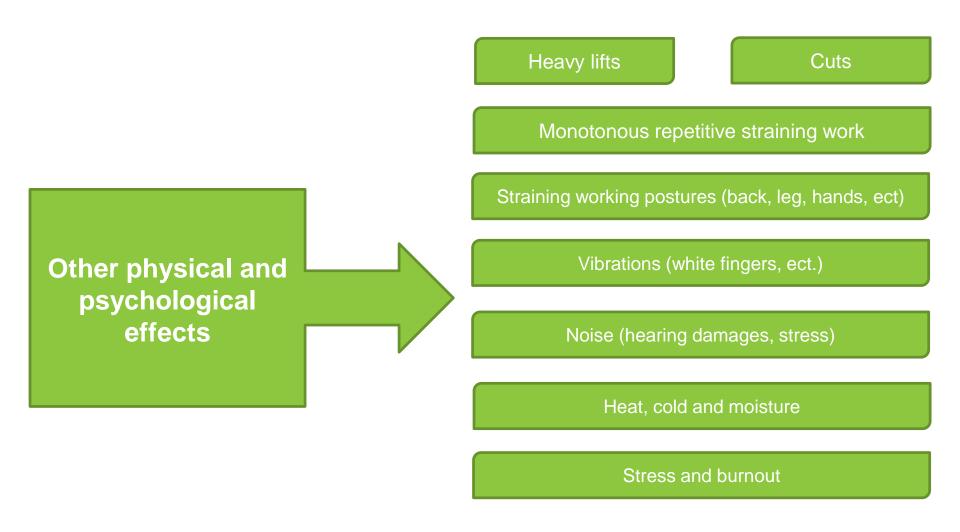


Direct contact (skin, mouth, eyes)

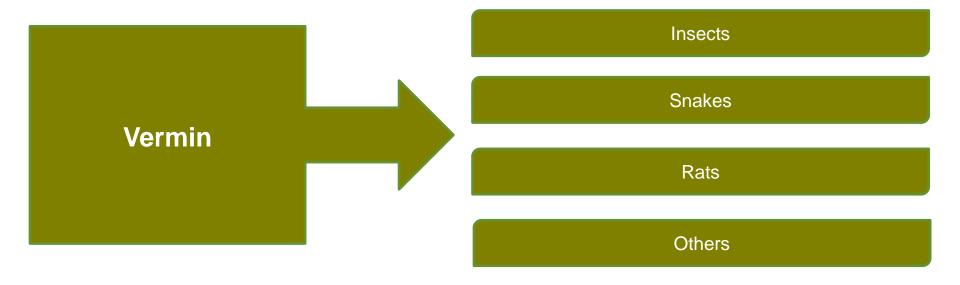


Effects of occupational exposure to chemicals; depends on the specific chemicals:	
Lung diseases	
Allergy	
Cancer	
Eczema	
Etchings/burns	
Impaired nervous system	
Immune system malfunctions	
Etc.	









# Low-tech sorting





## **Protective measures**







#### **AVOID RISKS AT THE SOURCE**

Avoid and prevent burning of waste

Sort hazardous waste out as early as possible and treat separately and safely

Reduce the dust formation and spreading (regulate traffic, plan handling, sprinkle)

Eliminate or reduce noise

Plan well to avoid accidents

Plan to minimize other physical and psychological impacts

Work upvind from smoke and dust

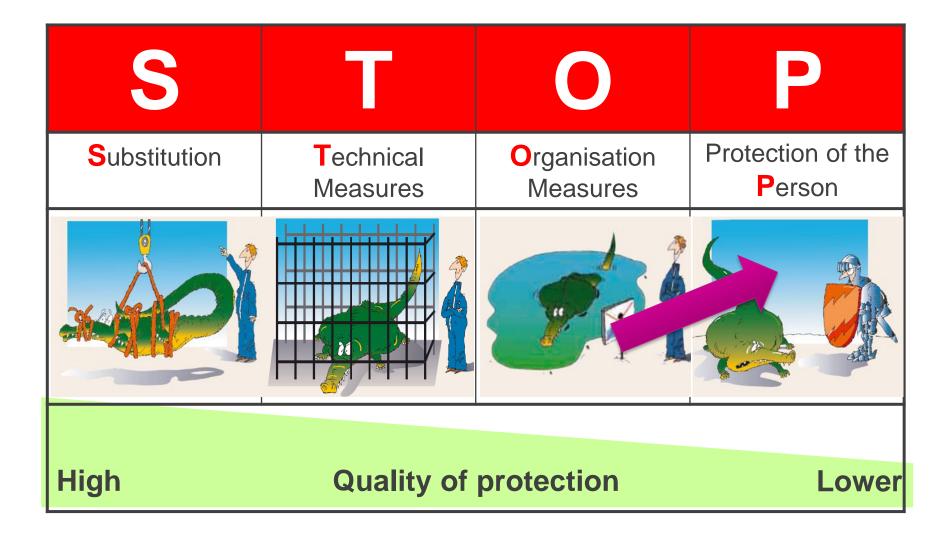


**Eliminate** the risk, if possible.

Personal protection equipment should always be considered the second choice.

#### MEASURES...





#### **Personal Protection Equipment**



#### **Protective Clothing**



3M filter, Specialbutikken.dk



JSP Safety - half mask & filters

#### Respiratory Problems

Must protect against specific threat: Dust/ fibre /aerosols (size), organic chemicals, mercury, etc.

Passive filters (maximum 3 hours/day to avoid lung damage)

Active filters (with active air supply)



3M active filter, Sikkerhedsgiganten



MSA – Fresh air supply

#### **Personal Protection Equipment**





<u>Ansell – chemical and cut</u> <u>protection gloves</u>

Gloves (against cuts, wear or chemicals; type used should counter relevant threats)



Honeywell – Polysafe glasses

Safety glasses / goggles



Honeywell – waste disposal boots

Safety shoes (falling or sharp objects)



JSP Safety – Safety Helmet

Safety helmets (near machines and where material can fall from over the head)

#### **Personal Protection Equipment**



#### **Employer's responsibilities**

Plan the work to eliminate or reduce risks and impacts

Provide all required protection equipment

Personal protection equipment may in some cases make the work heavier (heat, moisture, hindrance to movement)

Plan the work accordingly with adequate breaks

Train employees in safe procedures

Train employees in the proper use of personal protection equipment

Check that personal protection equipment is used as prescribed



# Good occupational health starts in the management!

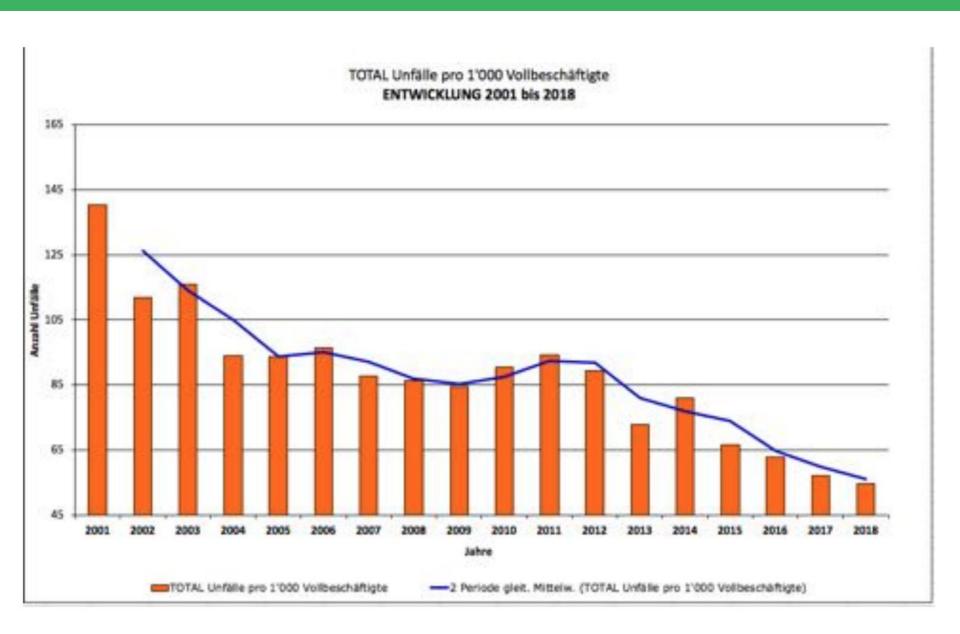


Abbildung 12 Entwicklung Anzahl Unfälle 2001 – 2018

#### Now, I give you an instrument...



- → Make it simple but efficient
- IICCCD
- Information
- Instruction, training
- Command (do-it, chief)
- Control (chief)
- Correction (chief)
- Documentation











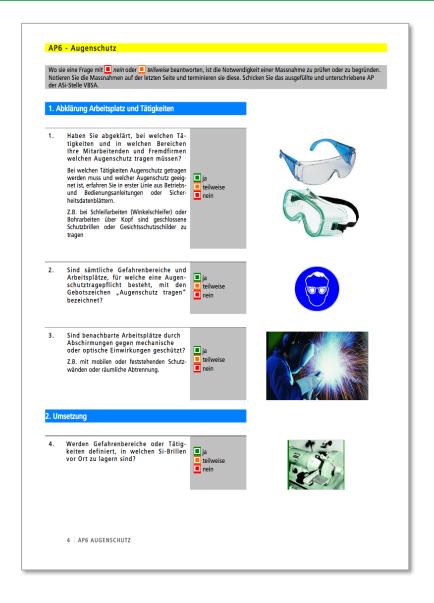




#### Know-How, training, controlling...

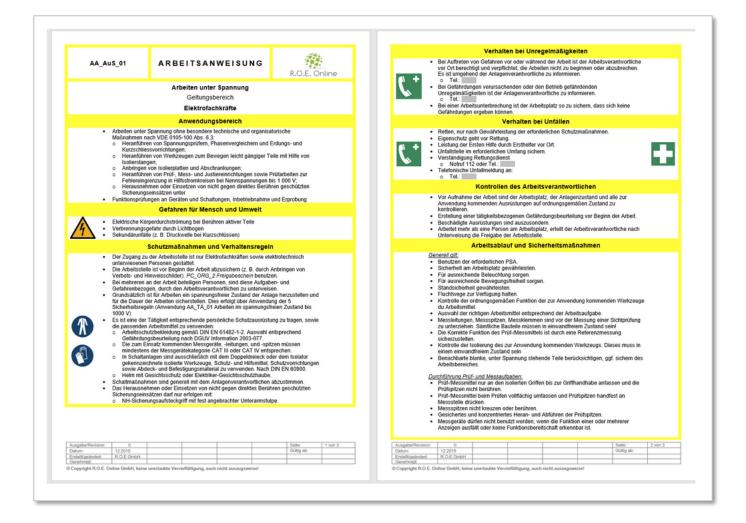






#### Know-How, training, controlling..



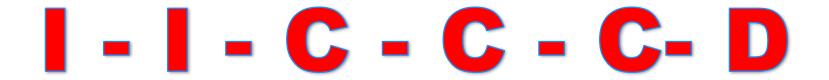


#### What is really important?













# We can deal with these risks...





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

www.unitar.org

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With contributions from www.leucon.ch



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=uSM2riAEX4U

