

Hello, I am an Occupational Therapy Doctoral student at Indiana Wesleyan University. There are many construction workers and/or construction companies that do not focus on safety procedures when working. Unfortunately, this causes unnecessary, preventable injuries and/or deaths secondary to falls. Due to these injuries/accidents, employees are sent to be medically evaluated by a provider through workers' compensation. At times, these employees are referred to Occupational Therapy (OT) services to improve on physical strength, body ergonomics, and/or quality performance while on the job. Sometimes, employees may have work restrictions regarding pushing, pulling, and/or carrying a limited number of pounds. In a study by Abdullah et al. (2017), it was found that unemployment and low endurance correlates with poor performance and satisfaction with occupations. OTs provide rehabilitative services to these employees so that they can successfully return to work duties without the maximum restrictions so that their occupation continues to promote performance and participation. Workers' compensation cases also involve nurse case managers; who employers need to pay as well so that the employee can make a safe return to work as soon as maximum medical improvement is provided. To prevent further injuries and/or fatal accidents, not only are safety resources needed, but addition of OT services on the worksite can be used so that evaluation of safe working conditions can be assessed to prevent future accidents.

Construction workers are very underrated in our society. As medical providers we do not realize that all medical facilities such as hospitals are built by construction companies. Some employees may have been injured while building a patient room and making sure that walls/floors are stable. The use of safety precautions will benefit in preventing workers' compensation injuries, it will save the employer from spending money using the workers' compensation insurance, and employees will feel safe to work. Hence, employee satisfaction will

increase. In addition, there is less risk for being sued due to lack of safety resources. If our construction workers are responsible for building the facilities that we use, then it is ideal and fair to protect the individuals who provide us with safe shelter.

References

- Abdullah, E. J., Badr, H. E., & Manee, F. (2017). Ms people's performance and satisfaction with daily occupations: Implications for occupational therapy. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, 38(1), 28–37. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1539449217719867>