



Development of Health and Safety Materials for NYC Housing Authority Workers

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Problem Background

- Increased pressure on the worker → More work-related injuries.
- Variety of injuries: chemical, musculoskeletal, respiratory, and violence
- Lack of proper training
- Culture of **blaming the worker.**

Objectives

- Identify the major health and safety risks faced by NYCHA workers, across all major occupational categories
- Develop materials that will be used by Safety Associates and NYCHA workers to identify hazards and prevention measures
- Pilot test materials to evaluate effectiveness



Methods

- Site visits
- Worker interviews
- Training sessions
- Staff Meetings



Worker Voices

- Caretaker J at Albany Houses, Brooklyn
 - “Treated like a slave”
 - “Not treated with respect”
 - Work complaints that were reported two years ago still weren’t fixed
- Shop Steward at Albany Houses, Brooklyn
 - “I take *pride* in my building.”



Results/Give Back Products

- Safety Checklist
- Pocket Guide
- Accident Investigation Process and Tool
- OHIP Report

Worker Safety Checklist

Name of Safety Associate: _____
Date of inspection: _____ Time of inspection: _____
Site: _____ Building: _____

Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Worker:
As a public employee, you cannot refuse to work UNLESS that work could immediately cause you serious injury, illness, or death. You may refuse to work with a particular chemical under the special circumstances mentioned above.

You have the right to postpone your work or task if you do not have the proper training or equipment to do that task. Remember, having safe working conditions is your right as a worker!

NYCHA Safety Hotline:
If you ever have questions about safety or notice an unsafe situation or condition at work, call the NYCHA Safety Hotline at: (718)-797-5399. You also have the right to report unsafe work conditions to your shop steward, or union Safety and Health coordinator, Diane Stein at (212) 924-2000.

Important numbers to remember:
NYC Poison Control Center: If you or someone you know has been exposed to a poison or unknown substance, please call the NYC Poison Control Center. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for treatment advice about exposures to poisons or questions about medicine safety. Call any time at 1-800-222-1222 or 212-764-7667.

Safety Checklist

General Safety Items
Before starting your tasks, ask yourself the following questions about your work environment and work conditions.

Part 1. Work Environment NOTES:

Project Challenges

- Immersion in shocking and uncomfortable working conditions



- Adapting NYCHA materials to focus more on unsafe conditions rather than unsafe acts

Project Successes

- Engaging with NYCHA workers
- Getting workers more involved in their health and safety
- Improving the culture of safety at NYCHA

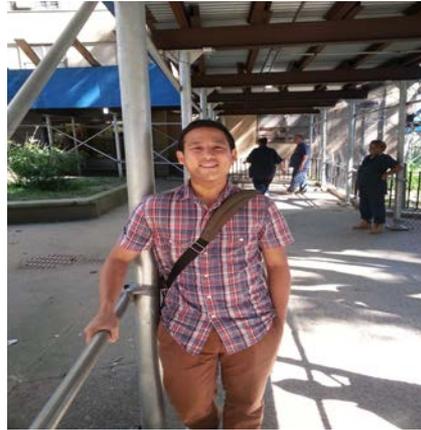




Recommendations

- Continue building culture of safety with NYCHA
- Give more voice to the NYCHA workers in safety decisions
- Collect and compile safety data and experiences of workers

Personal Reflections



Acknowledgements



- NYCHA workers and staff
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