

# E-NEWS Article

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## Occupational accidents kill over 300 people and injure over one million every year

More than a third of all over-three-day injuries reported each year to the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities are caused by manual handling, that is, the transporting or supporting of loads by hand or by bodily force.

Manual handling injuries can occur wherever people work for example, on farms, in building sites, in factories, offices, warehouses, hospitals, banks, laboratories and while making deliveries etc.

The most recent survey of self-reported work-related illness estimated that in 2001/02, 1.1 million people in Great Britain suffered from musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) caused or made worse by their current or past work. An estimated 12.3 million working days were lost due to these work-related MSDs. On average each sufferer took about 20 days off in that 12 month period.

In 2006 alone, the UK lost six million days to workplace injuries, and another 30 million to work-related illnesses. Even the stringent health and safety laws were not enough to prevent more than half a million serious injuries; worse still, more than 200 people lost their lives.

The manual handling regulations place a duty on every employer to reduce potential injury from moving and handling operations. St John Ambulance recommends that all employers consider training in moving and handling as part of each new employee's induction. The St John Ambulance Moving and handling courses will help employers meet their legal obligations and keep their staff safe. These courses have been reviewed by BackCare, comply with ISO 9001:2000 and each lasts four hours. Students who successfully complete a Moving and handling course receive a certificate of attendance, which has NVQ Level 2 equivalency. Delegates can attend one of their scheduled courses or the course can be delivered on the employer's premises, subject to minimum numbers. Call 08700 10 49 50 or visit [www.sja.org.uk/sja/training-courses](http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/training-courses)

298 words

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