

## **Employee injuries cost over \$50 billion in 2003, study finds**

Employers paid more than \$50 billion for wages and medical care of injured employees in 2003 -- a year in which injury costs declined by 0.7 percent. The findings, from an insurance company study, are based on company data as well as information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the National Academy of Social Science. The study reported that the top cause of worker injury in 2003 was "overexertion," defined as excessive lifting, pushing, pulling, holding, carrying or throwing of an object. Overexertion accounted for 26 percent of injuries, for a total cost of \$13.4 billion. Other top causes included falls on the same level, bodily reaction (bending, climbing, slipping or tripping without falling), falls to a lower level, being struck by an object and repetitive motion. The study also noted that more than 60 percent of executives surveyed reported that each \$1 invested in injury prevention yielded a return of \$2 or more and that more than 40 percent cited better training as their main workplace safety intervention.