

JNIOOSH

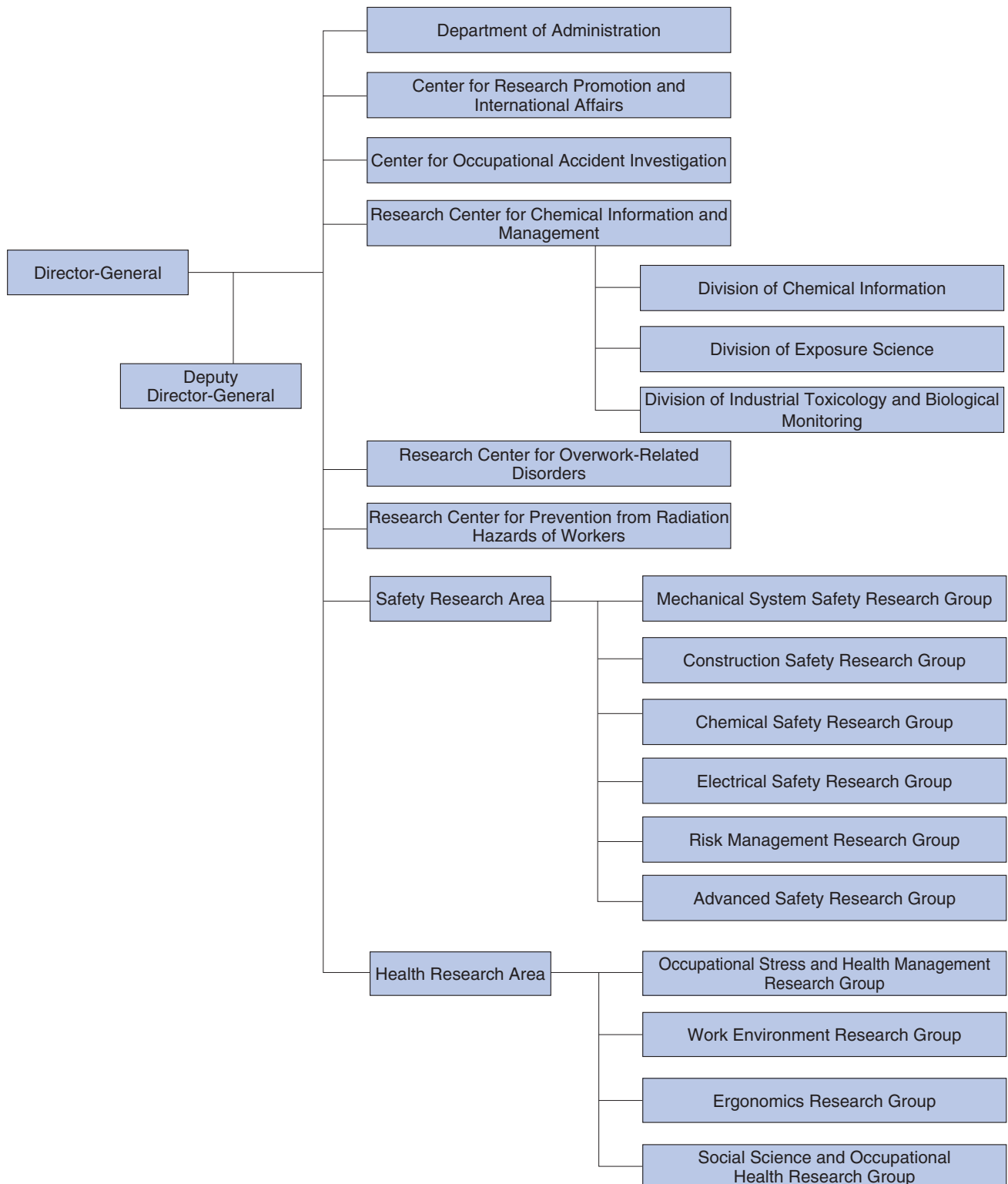
**National Institute of
Occupational Safety and Health,
Japan**

Japan Organization of Occupational Health and Safety

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Organization



Mission of JNIOOSH

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan (JNIOOSH) is the only comprehensive research institute for occupational safety and health in Japan. The JNIOOSH actively conducts scientific researches in order to contribute administrative duties for the government and workers in industries, risk reduction of industrial accidents and diseases, promoting workers' health, and creating safe and comfortable work environment.

Promotion of research for planning and drafting governmental policy in occupational safety and health fields

We promote research to contribute to the planning and drafting of governmental policy in occupational safety and health fields, using specialized knowledge.

Our institute systematically continuously promotes research for the policy of occupational safety and health (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare). Research projects, including medium and long terms carried out in our institute, are as follows:

Project research (Project study)

Project research has clear attainment goals with an appropriate research budget and staff. The themes are established based on the following viewpoints:

1. Systematical and continual promotion of research that collects evidence for the planning and drafting of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare policies
2. Promotion of research aimed at eradication of lethal accidents at worksites
3. Promotion of research for measures that ensure the safety and health of workers, such as prevention of death from overwork (Karoshi)
4. Promotion of research for measures of change in employment structure and diversification of working styles
5. Promotion of research for measures to ensure the safety and health of workers with diseases
6. Promotion of research for the prevention of health disorders (problems) exposed to chemicals
7. Promotion of comprehensive research on occupational safety and health fields collaborating with other research institutes for social sciences

We establish clear goals for research themes and develop and publish detailed road maps. We exchange opinions with a policy charge section in the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare periodically. Additionally, we discuss progress on the road maps and the contribution of policies at the Japan Organization of Occupational Health and Safety.

Cooperative research

Cooperative research is integrated with more than one facility in our organization.

The purpose of cooperative research is related to the promotion of a decrease in industrial accidents and the social recovery of victims by industrial accidents. The research subjects were as follows: 1) prevention of work-related disorders from overwork, 2) prevention of occupational spinal injury and life support, and 3) prevention of health problems and exposure evaluation of chemicals.

Fundamental research

Fundamental research is basic research considering the domestic and overseas movement of industrial accidents, occupational disorders, and industrial activities.

Research of governmental mission

Research with high priority requested by the government (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) for planning and drafting of policy.

Contribution to the administration of occupational safety and health by the establishment of centers

Contribution to the administration of occupational safety and health by the establishment of centers

1. The Center for Occupational Accident Investigation

The center conducts investigations of industrial accidents in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. In addition, the mechanisms of the accidents are analyzed, collected materials are also tested to clarify the causes of the accidents and trend analyses are also carried out using the records of industrial accidents in the past.

2. Research Center for Chemical Information and Management

The purpose of the center is to consolidate the research and the information concerning disasters due to chemicals, including the study of diseases, the development of preventive measures, and the dissemination of information on chemical management.

3. Research Center for Overwork-Related Disorders

In accordance with the Act promoting measures to prevent death and injury from overwork, the Research Center for Overwork-Related Disorders (RECORDS) conducts multidisciplinary research including workers' compensation claim analyses, epidemiological studies, and laboratory experiments. RECORDS also disseminates the latest information on overwork and preventive measures.

4. Research Center for Prevention from Radiation Hazards of Workers

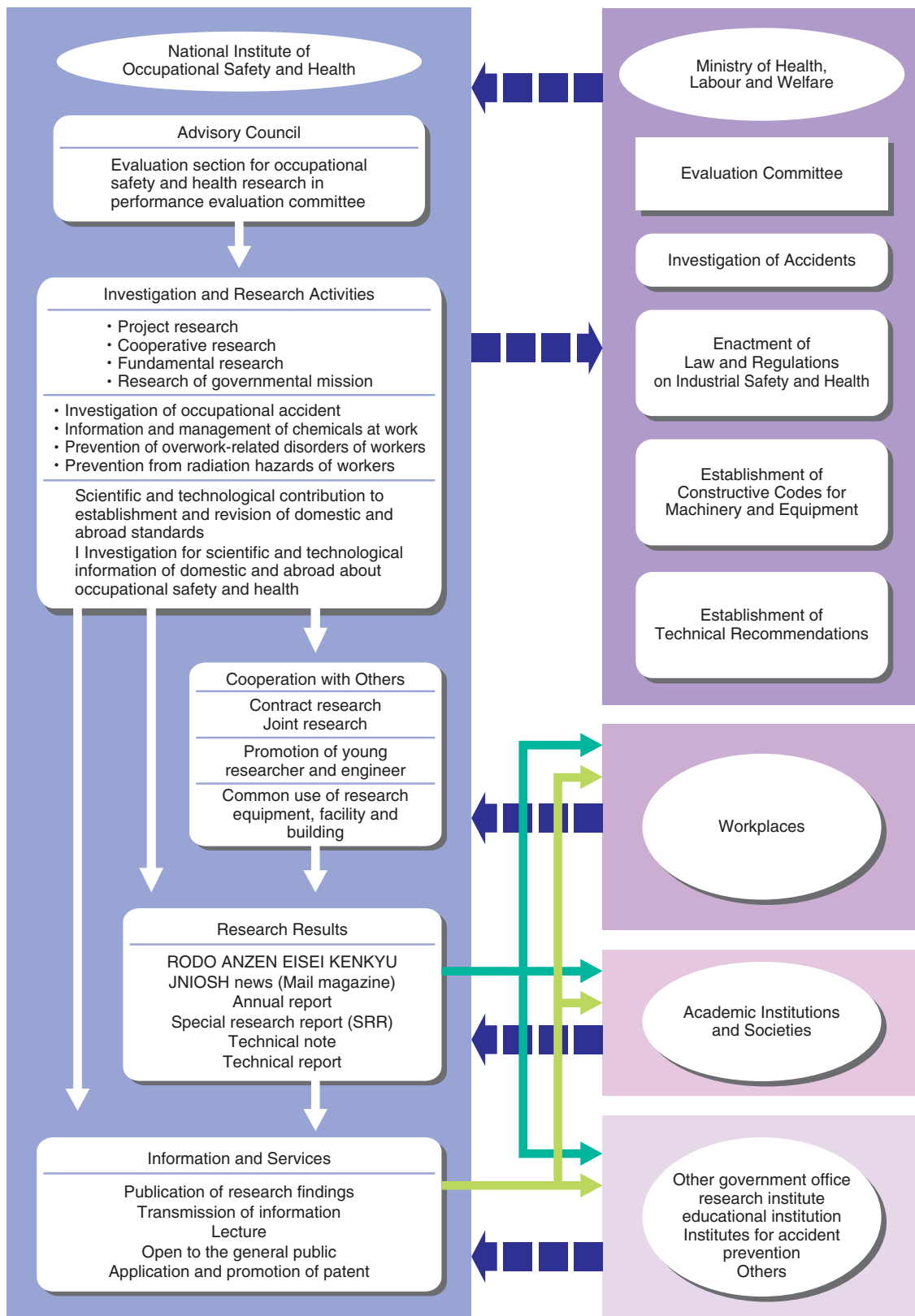
The center conducts a life-long cohort study of emergency workers in response to the Fukushima nuclear accident, in which major efforts is put into radiation health effects but also the establishment of a systematic health surveillance system among the cohort.

Entrusted Research, Facility Use, Information Services, etc.

1. JNIOOSH actively undertakes entrusted research when requested by companies, public agencies and governments. Furthermore, we pursue collaborative research with both domestic and international research institutions.
2. We enable a certain proportion of our institutional facilities to be used by private enterprises and other institutions, at a cost. Technical support when using these facilities can be provided by JNIOOSH staff.
3. Research information compiled by JNIOOSH is widely disseminated via homepages, newsletters, annual reports, outline of the institute, technological and safety guides, research reports and presentations at academic societies. In addition, the international scientific journal, INDUSTRIAL HEALTH, has been published since 1963 by JNIOOSH. To further disseminate useful reference tools, JNIOOSH is open to the public every year and various lectures are provided for professionals and citizens.



Activities of JNIOOSH in connection with Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare and other institutions



Center for Occupational Accident Investigation

The main activity of the Center for Occupational Accident Investigation is investigation of the industrial accidents which is one of our most important missions.

By the request from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, our center dispatches the researchers of the suitable research group to the accident site for investigation of the serious and/or complicated mechanism accident.

These researchers carefully observe the site, and bring back, if necessary, materials to the laboratory for further analysis or testing.

In addition, the expert opinion and the referral reply are carried out from the scientific and special viewpoint by the request from criminal investigation agencies, such as Labour administration and the police.



Research Center for Chemical Information and Management

There are more than 150 million registered chemical substances worldwide. In addition, it is believed that about 100,000 chemical substances are used in factories, etc., and the chemical products made from these substances and their production processes are diversifying. Occupational accidents caused by chemical substances can have a wide range of consequences, including explosions, fires, asphyxiation, acute poisoning, allergies, carcinogenesis, and dermatitis, and countermeasures are different for each substance and production process. Appropriate chemical management needs to be implemented in response to the hazards of substances and the magnitude of the risk of disasters caused by them. However, in the current situation, it cannot be said that sufficient controls are used for chemicals, as they are often used without confirming their hazards or laws and management systems have not been sufficiently developed.

The Research Center for Chemical Information and Management was established to further enhance and strengthen the management of chemical substances in the workplace.

Role of the Research Center for Chemical Information and Management

- The Center collects, organizes, and analyzes relevant information in order to prevent disasters caused by chemical substances in the workplace.
- As a central organization in the development of management methods for chemical substances, the Center actively collaborates and conducts joint research with other organizations.
- The Center provides information obtained as a result of surveys and research to the government, various organizations, and companies as necessary.
- The Center promotes the information necessary for the management of chemical substances in the workplace in a form that is easy to understand and accessible to everyone.
- The Center provides international harmonization of standards for the assessment of the toxicity of chemical substances, etc.
- The Center provides information and technical assistance to countries around the world and to the international community.

The Center is composed of three divisions: (1) the Division of Chemical Information, which collects, organizes, and disseminates information necessary for chemical substance management; (2) the Division of Exposure Science, which evaluates workplace exposures and investigates disasters; and (3) the Division of Industrial Toxicology and Biological Monitoring, which evaluates the hazards of chemical substances through experiments and other means.

Role of each research division

Division of Chemical Information

Providing and disseminating information on chemical substance management; analysis of disaster data; consideration of consistency between current laws and regulations, domestic hazard knowledge, and international standards.

Division of Exposure Science

Assessment of exposure to chemical substances (including estimation of high-concentration exposure groups, environmental measurements, and consideration of exposure measurements); development and proposal of methods and measures to control and reduce the amount of exposure; conduct of chemical disaster investigations.

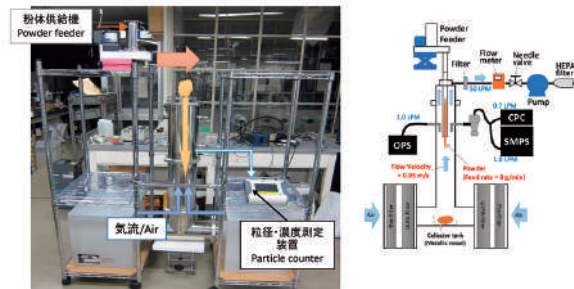
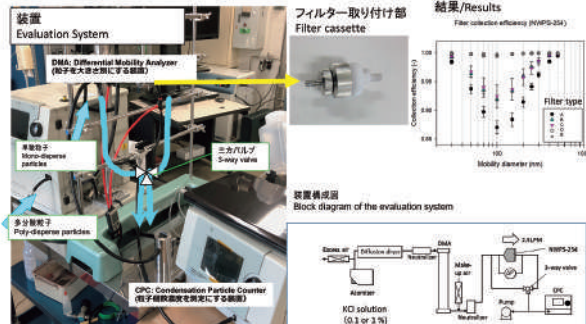
Division of Industrial Toxicology and Biological Monitoring

Evaluation of the hazards of chemical substances by utilizing data collected from non-animal tests, health checkups, and performance of animal experiments; investigation of hazardousness and toxicity mechanisms (including development and proposal of indicators for early detection of diseases); development, evaluation, and proposal of test methods and judgment criteria for toxicity.

Division of Chemical Information

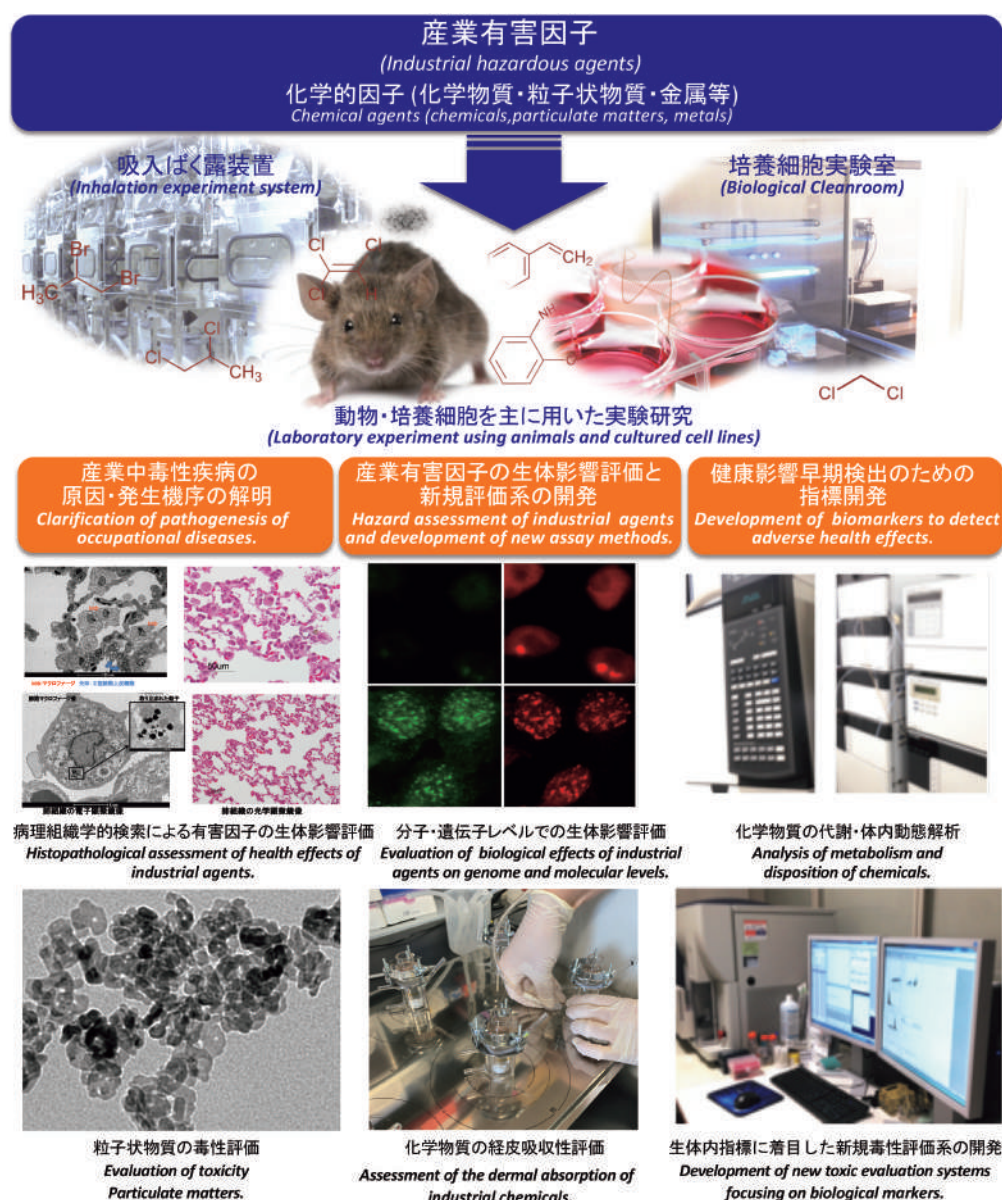
The Division of Chemical Information collects, analyzes and disseminate information necessary to protect the health of workers from the hazards of chemicals. Specifically, in addition to disseminating and updating information related to the GHS, we are conducting research on the processing and dissemination of information that can be used in the workplace, based on literature surveys on health problems or analysis of cases of occupational accidents caused by chemicals, and comparative studies of chemical substance management methods in other countries. We also conduct research on the development of practical infrastructures to support the management of chemicals in small and medium-sized businesses.





Division of Industrial Toxicology and Biological Monitoring

The mission of this research division is to elucidate the causes of occupational diseases experimentally and provide scientific evidence and measures for the prevention of the diseases. There are three main study objectives in this division. The first is to investigate the causative factors of occupational diseases that are prevalent among workers and explore how these factors, such as exposure to some specific chemicals, induce health problems. The second is to conduct hazard assessments of industrial chemicals that may be toxic to workers in their workplaces. Individual traits such as gender, age, and genetics are considered in assessments. Moreover, the division attempts to develop new methods and/or models for hazard assessments. The third objective is to establish biomarkers and/or new assays for the evaluation of exposure to chemicals and for adverse health effects in their early stages. Recent research subjects include occupational bladder and bile duct cancers in factories manufacturing or utilizing some chemicals, accelerated silicosis in plants producing fine particles of crystalline silica, beryllium sensitization and chronic beryllium lung disease, and assessment models for percutaneous absorption and genotoxicity of industrial chemicals.

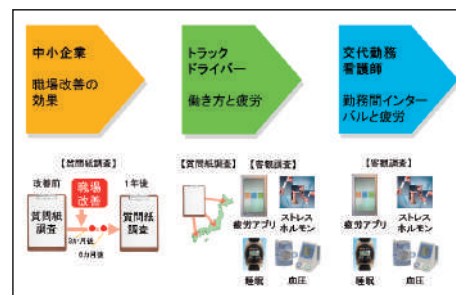


Research Center for Overwork-Related Disorders

In accordance with the Act promoting measures to prevent death and injury from overwork, the Research Center for Overwork-Related Disorders (RECORDS) has been conducting empirical research and disseminating information on overwork-related disorders since April 2015. RECORDS carries out analyses of workers' compensation claims for overwork-related cerebrovascular/cardiovascular diseases and mental disorders, and suicide (interdisciplinary approach by specialists in medical, psychological, and social science fields), epidemiological studies (occupational cohorts, workplace interventions), and laboratory experiments (physiological responses to cardiovascular workloads, indicators of cardiorespiratory fitness). RECORDS also disseminates the latest information on overwork and preventive measures for it to the rest of the world via JNIOOSH homepage.



Storage of copied workers' compensation claims for overwork-related cerebrovascular/cardiovascular diseases and mental disorders.



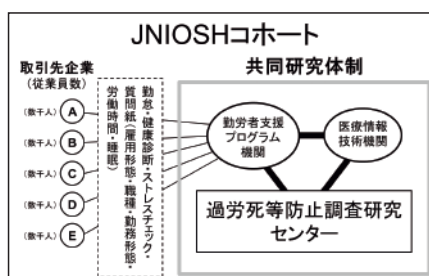
Workplace intervention studies exploring the preventive measures against overwork-related disorders.



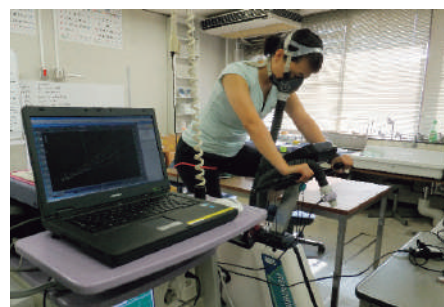
Publication of the results of analyses of workers' compensation claims for overwork-related deaths and disorders.



Experiments to examine cardiovascular responses to simulated long work hours.



JNIOOSH cohort study investigating the prospective association between work/rest and worker health.



Experiments to determine validated indicators of cardiorespiratory fitness.

Research Center for Prevention from Radiation Hazards of Workers

The Research Center for Prevention from Radiation Hazards of Workers conducts research on the prevention of health effects in workers caused by exposure to ionizing radiation at work in various industries, including at nuclear power plants, in hospitals with radiational diagnosis and/or therapy, in nondestructive examinations and examinations with any other measuring device, and in disposal work for scrap originating from accidents at nuclear power plants. Investigations include health surveillance of relevant workers, personal monitoring for nuclear workers, and environmental radiation monitoring. The current research project is focused on a long-term epidemiological study of emergency workers engaged in the response to the Fukushima nuclear accidents, in which major effort has been put into the establishment of a systematic health surveillance system. The research group for this project is headed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan, and it includes the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, which aims to perform a long-term epidemiological study on those exposed to the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology; Osaka University, the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Kanazawa Medical University, Jichi Medical University, and Hiroshima University; the Japan Atomic Energy Agency; and Hoshi Hospital, in addition to others, as collaborators. After the first stage of this large project is reached, the Center will be set to introduce the other project listed above in a successive manner.

Mechanical System Safety Research Group

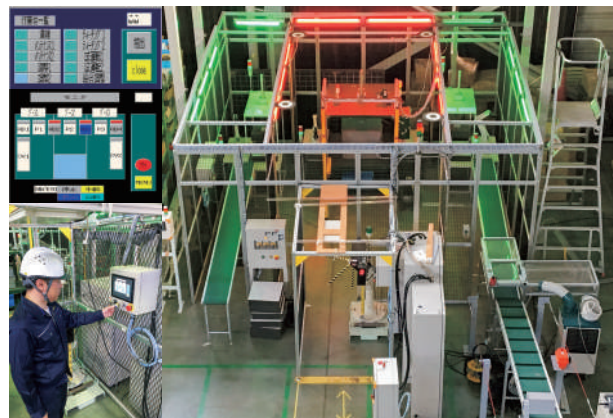
To prevent machine and equipment related accidents, the Mechanical System Safety Research Group investigates the fatigue strength of machine components, uses numerical analysis for fractured surfaces, and conducts research on control methods for safe man-machine systems.



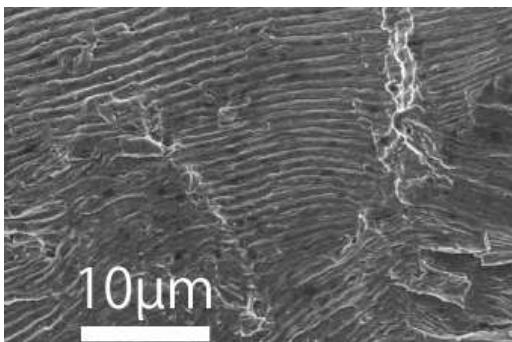
Explosion test for steel pipes with wall-thinning.



S-bending fatigue test for wire ropes.



Safe access control for integrated manufacturing system.



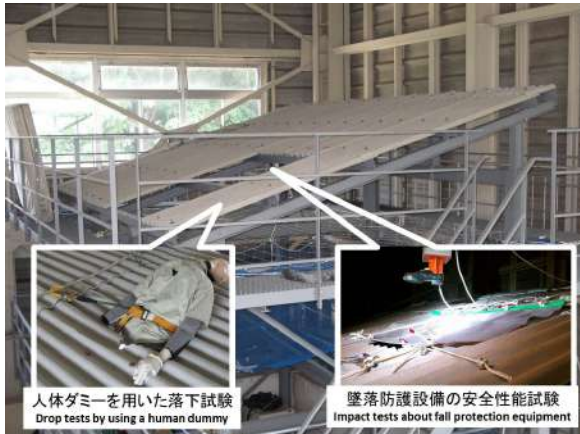
Stripe pattern observed on fatigue fracture surface by scanning electron microscope.



Pinching protection for bathing assist device.

Construction Safety Research Group

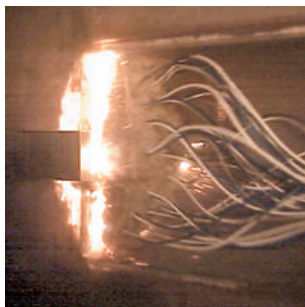
The Construction Safety Research Group studies the requirements for the safe conduct of construction work and improvement methods for the working environment at construction sites. The main subjects of the research are safety in temporary work, safety in earthwork, prevention of accidents involving falls, and safety assessment of newly developed methods of construction work.



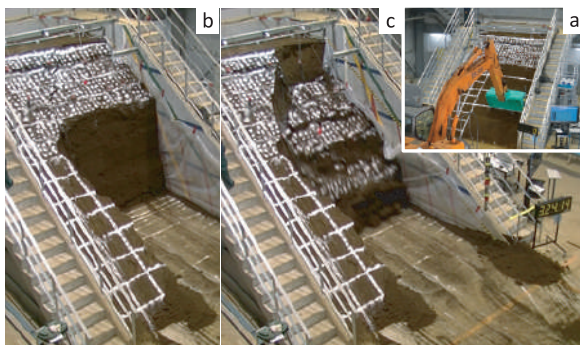
Full scale roof system for safety evaluation of falling.



Performance test of temporary structures.



Blasting test at tunnel cutting face of model ground.



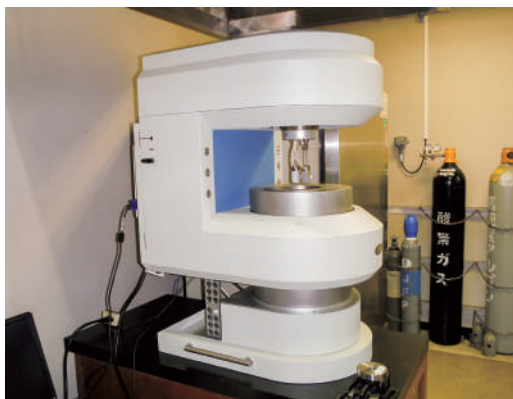
Full scale model test on simulation of slope failure by excavations
a) Excavation by construction machinery, b) Partially excavated slope, c) Failure after 24 minutes of time lag.



The study on potential risk of overturning in drill rigs while self propelling on unstable supporting ground in construction sites.

Chemical Safety Research Group

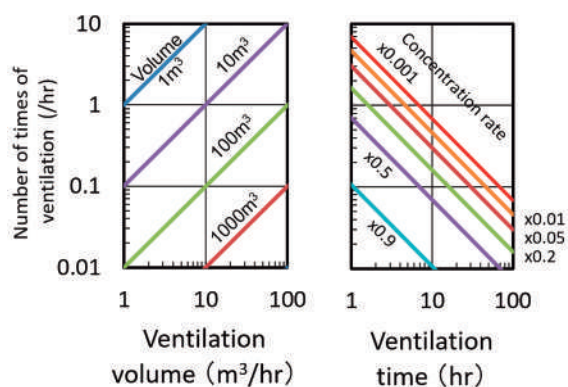
The aim of the work in the Chemical Safety Research Group is to prevent industrial accidents by decreasing the risk of explosions and fires during chemical process. We also publish an accessible database of explosion accident histories in industries which are useful references for evaluating explosion risks in chemical process. The contents of the database are renewed in order.



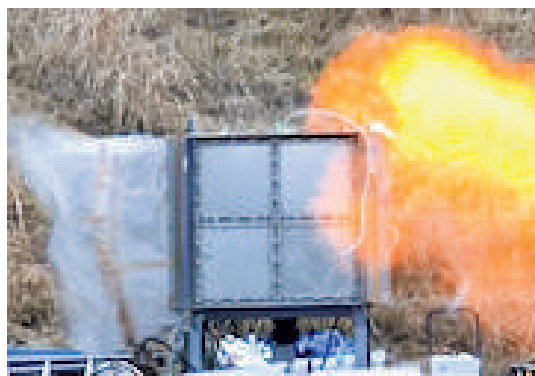
Adiabatic reaction calorimeter for evaluating exothermal behavior.



Flammability test of lycopodium dust.



Nomogram of ventilation volume and ventilation time.



Capture system for explosion products (Left:Success, Right:Failure).

Electrical Safety Research Group

The Electrical Safety Research Group is dedicated to the prevention of industrial hazards caused by electrical energy and to the development of electric, electronic, and information technologies that can be applied for industrial safety purposes.

Our research subjects are the investigation of the ignition mechanism due to electrostatic discharges, development of antistatic applications, explosion-protected electrical installations, prevention of malfunctions of electronic equipment and systems due to electromagnetic noises, and prevention of electric shock hazards.

Research findings and related technical information are edited and published as Technical Recommendations (TR).



Pneumatic powder transport facility for investigating electrostatic charges and discharges.



A novel explosion proof type bi-polar electrostatic ionizer.



Technical recommendations for explosion-protected electrical installation (left), and for electrostatic hazards (right).



Modeling of electrostatic phenomena and application to electrostatic hazards.



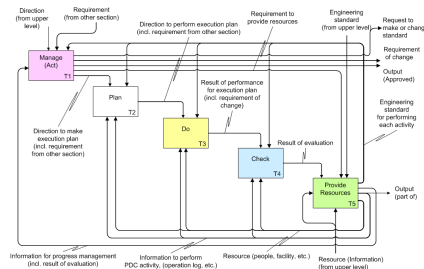
Experimental equipment for measuring of electric charge generated by flow and jet of liquid.

Risk Management Research Group

Risk Management Research Group performs research on and develops tools for risk management and occupational safety, measures to prevent industrial accidents caused by human error, and statistical analysis of occupational accident data. There are seven primary fields on which our group focuses: 1) health and safety promotion in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); 2) industry-based development of risk management tools and techniques; 3) research on prevention measures for occupational accidents caused by organizational failures and human error; 4) criteria development based on scientific evidence that covers tools and equipment used in tertiary industry, construction industry, and land transportation industry; 5) research on personal protective equipment reliability and credibility; 6) psychological research on workers' risk perception; and 7) safety education and training program establishment. Our group enhances cross-departmental collaboration. This enables our researchers to work together across departmental and disciplinary boundaries.



Development of a fall preventive detachable railing from tailgate lifter (tail lift) platforms.



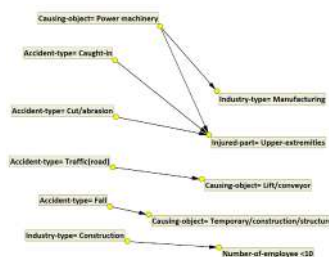
Template for developing business process model (PDCA-P.R. Cycle).



Risk assessment of falling from height during stepladder tasks.



Development of gloves with impact absorbing property for a user of roll box pallets (roll containers).



Data mining for association-analysis about accident factors.



Measurement of characteristics of construction workers' risk perception.

Advanced Safety Research Group

The Advanced Safety Research Group was established in April 2021 to deal with occupational safety issues related to new technologies such as Collaborative Robot, AI (artificial intelligence) and IoT (Internet of things), which are being introduced into industrial worksites. Though the implementation of these new technologies in society is now promoted by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and other national governments, realization and spread these technological innovations is essential to ensure safety.

Our group conducts research to evaluate 1) applicability of new technologies for prevention of occupational accidents at industrial sites and to investigate and solve 2) new problems in safety caused by using new technologies. The issues identified and analyzed will be addressed in terms of both the development and use of new technologies.

In addition, we collaborate with other research groups to reinforce existing research, such as the safety education systems using VR (virtual reality) and/or MR (mixed reality), life support technology for occupational injuries, and safety measures using ICT for construction machinery.



Alert indication of approaching hand to forklift using MR



Development of educational tool of walking support equipment for occupational injuries

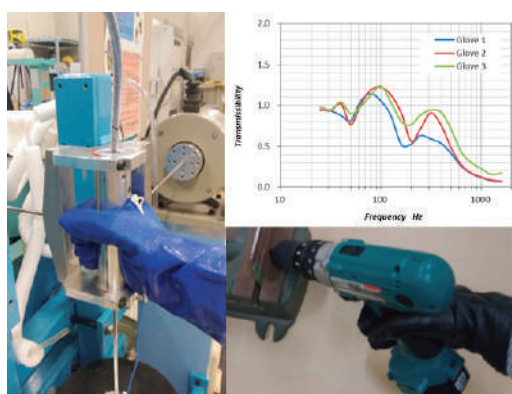
Occupational Stress and Health Management Research Group

Our research is focused on elucidating the mechanisms of overwork-related health issues, including mental health problems, fatigue and sleep problems, and development of systematic strategies to counter these issues. Our activities include 1) field studies in truck drivers, shift-working nurses, and information technology workers, 2) questionnaire research with cross-sectional and prospective designs, 3) experimental research using polysomnography, 4) development of hormone-based tests for expedited stress measurement using biological samples, and 5) evidence-based policy making. We hope that our research contributes to creating safe and healthy work environments and improving the quality of life of workers.



Work Environment Research Group

The Work Environment Research Group focuses on measurement, evaluation, and prediction of occupational hazards of chemical substances, dust, and physical factors. The research activities for chemical hazards and dust comprise development of methods of measurement and analysis of chemical substances, application of new technologies to local exhaust ventilation (LEV) systems, and performance evaluations of adsorbents for gas filters of respirators. The research activities for physical factors include examinations of the physical, physiological and psychological effects of human vibration, noise, low-frequency noise, heat strain, and non-ionizing radiation. The results obtained from these research activities can be applied to the construction of prediction strategies for the related occupational disorders and the development and performance evaluation of personal protective equipment.



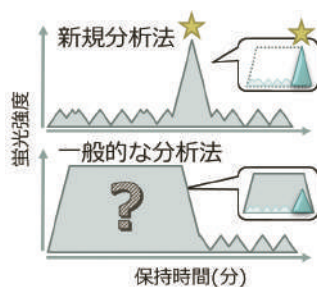
Prediction of the vibration attenuation performance of AV gloves for tool-specific vibration



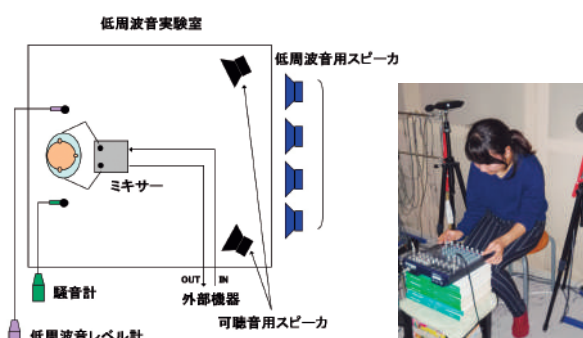
Evaluation of heat stress at a summer construction site



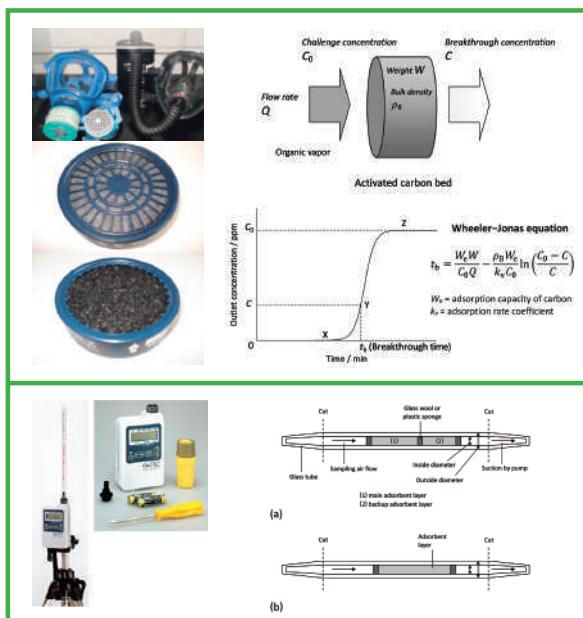
Investigation of the optimum conditions for control of contaminants by push - pull ventilation system



Development of a highly selective analytical method for aromatic amines on sulfuric acid-impregnated filters by HPLC



Measurement of the threshold level for vibratory sensation when exposed to low-frequency noise.



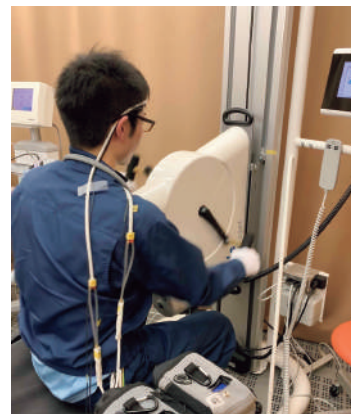
Research on performance evaluations of adsorbents for gas filters of respirators used in various workplaces and sampling agents for organic vapors used in work environment measurements. We also perform more detailed investigations the effective use of the adsorbent materials.

Ergonomics Research Group

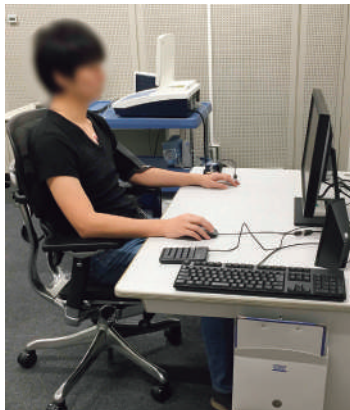
The Ergonomics Research Group investigates the effects of health obstruction factors during work on worker physiology and proposes measures by conducting experiments with subjects and intervention studies. We evaluate and standardize tools and equipment by using ergonomic methods. Our activities include physiological and psychological studies on the health effects of such things as working posture, working time, manual handling of heavy loads, and heat strain. We investigate the relationships between physical capacity and health and suggest measures for health promotion. We also develop and evaluate equipment that reduces work burden and measures physiological function during work.



Evaluation of occupational safety and health and care equipment for preventing low back pain among caregivers.



Evaluation of the physiological responses to exertional heat stress and physical burden.



Examination of the physiological responses to mental work and reduction of work-related burden.



Experimental measurement of worker's cardiorespiratory fitness.

Social Science and Occupational Health Research Group

The inquiry into healthy work can be determined comprehensively by research with social science such as law, economics, and sociology, in addition to by natural science including medicine, toxicology, and engineering. The Social Science and Occupational Health Research Group, established in fiscal year 2021 at our institute, conducts research on 1) occupational health practice in the workplace, health problems associated with work style, and time course of health issues at work, and 2) essential requirements for healthy work environment and social factors disturbing workers' health to cause overwork-related death/disorders (KAROSHI). Outcomes of this research group are shared by the other groups of research in the institute to indicate evidence to create healthy, better work environment and conditions in a multidisciplinary manner.

The Social Science and Occupational Health Research Group also has an important mission to conduct surveys to show the labour and social aspects leading to overwork-related death/disorders, in collaboration with the Research Center for Overwork-Related Disorders (RECORDS). This task is specified on the outline of measures preventing KAROSHI in the Japanese Government. Mutual communications between this group and RECORDS produce significant benefits to identify innovative approach at both sides. Findings obtained by these surveys are incorporated into the White Paper of Preventive Measures for KAROSHI as an annual report.



Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
Japan

History of JNIOOSH

National Institute of Industrial Safety (NIIS)

- 1942 The Research Institute of Industrial Safety (RIIS) was founded by the Ministry of Welfare in Tokyo
- 1943 The Industrial Safety Museum was opened in Minato-ku (Tamachi), Tokyo
- 1947 The institute was transferred to the Japanese Ministry of Labour
- 1961 The Industrial Safety Exhibition Center was opened in Osaka
- 1966 Outdoor experiment place was established in Kiyose, Tokyo
- 1971 New headquarters (Tamachi office building) was opened
- 1971 The Industrial Safety Museum was opened in the headquarters building
- 1992 The headquarters was transferred from Minato-ku (Tamachi) to Kiyose city
- 1995 The institute was reorganized, and was renamed the National Institute of Industrial Safety (NIIS)
- 2001 The institute was transferred to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
- 2001 The institute was became an independent administrative institution

National Institute of Industrial Health (NIIH)

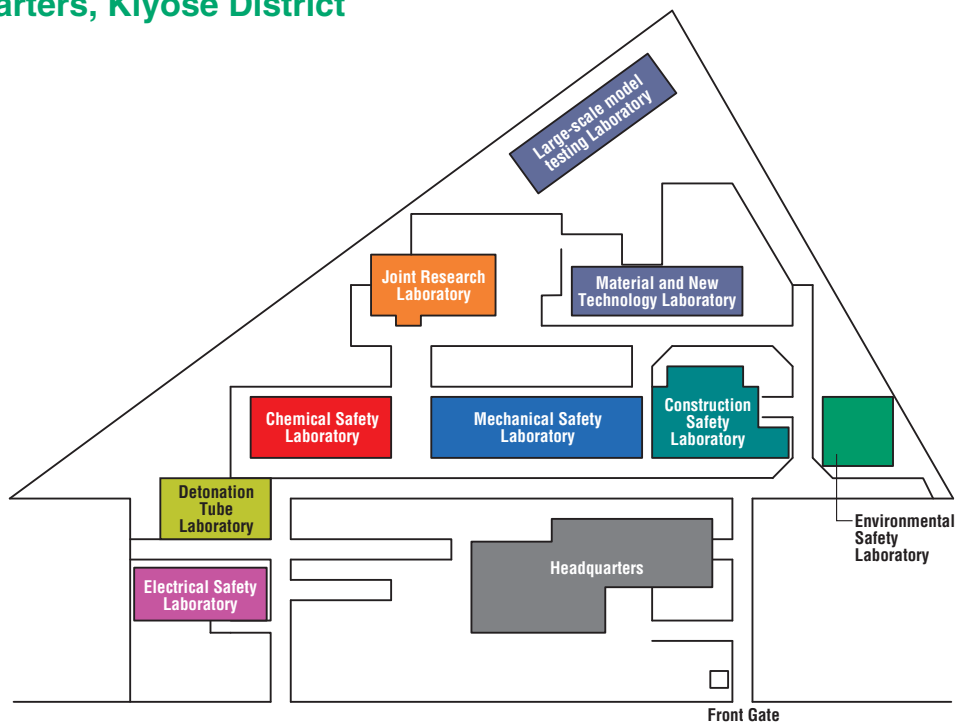
- 1949 The Silicosis Laboratory (KEIHAISHIKENSHITU) was founded in Kinugawa, Tochigi Prefecture, as an institution attached to the Industrial Health Division, Ministry of Labour, at the same location as the Kinugawa Silicosis Hospital
- 1957 In accordance with the Ministry of Labour Organization Act, the forerunner of the National Institute of Industrial Health (NIIH, the ROUDO EISEI KENKYUSHO), was established in Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture
- 1963 The international scientific journal entitled "INDUSTRIAL HEALTH" was first published
- 1976 The National Institute of Industrial Health (SANGYOU IGAKU SOUGOU KENKYUSHO) was opened in Tama-ku, Kawasaki City
- 1990 His Majesty the Emperor Akihito visited the NIIH
- 2001 The institute was transferred to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
- 2001 The Institute became an independent administrative institution
- 2003 The NIIH International Center was founded

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan (JNIOOSH)

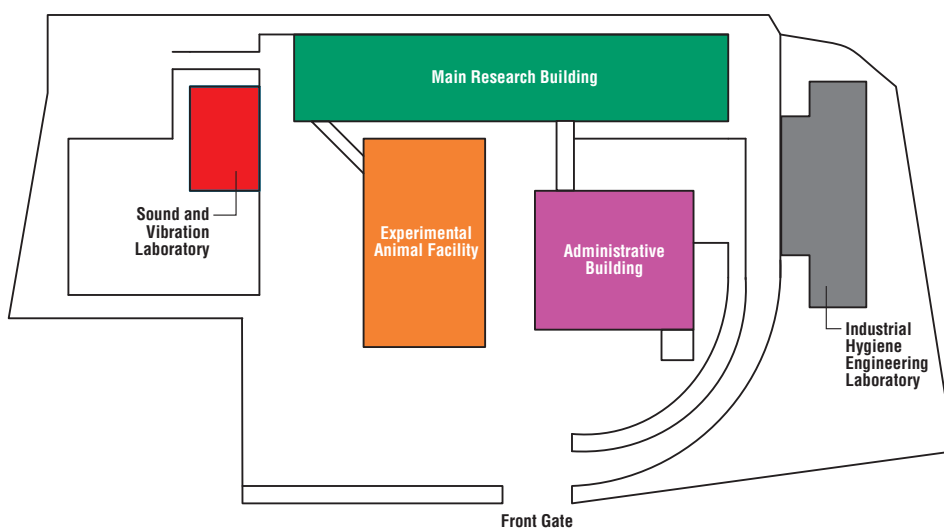
- 2006 The NIIS and NIIH were combined to create the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan (JNIOOSH)
- 2016 The Japan Labour Health and Welfare Organization and JNIOOSH were combined to create the Japan Organization of Occupational Health and Safety, and Center for Research Promotion and International Affairs was founded
- 2018 Research Center for Overwork-Related Disorders was founded
- 2020 Research Center for Chemical Information and Management and Research Center for Prevention from Radiation Hazards of Workers were founded

Outline of Building Facilities

Headquarters, Kiyose District



Noborito District



Access

[Headquarters, Kiyose District]

Umezono 1-4-6, Kiyose,
Tokyo 204-0024, JAPAN
TEL: +81-42-491-4512
FAX: +81-42-491-7846

[By Public Transportation]

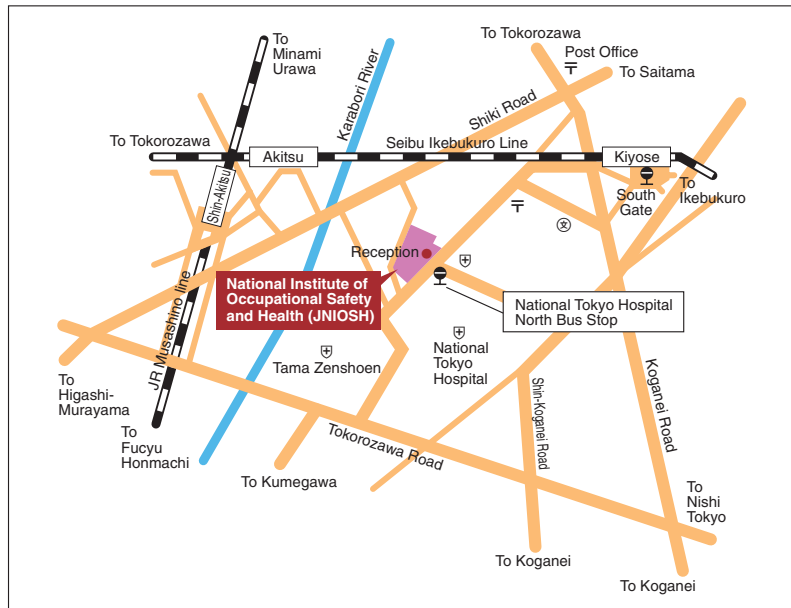
Take the Seibu Ikebukuro line to Kiyose station and use the south exit
From the south exit of the station take the Seibu bus from the No. 2 bus stop (5 minutes)
Get off the bus at the National Tokyo Hospital North bus stop (1 minute walk)

[By Taxi]

Take a taxi from the Seibu Ikebukuro line Kiyose station,
the Seibu Ikebukuro line Akitsu station,
or the JR Musashino line Shin-Akitsu station (5 minutes)

[On Foot]

You can walk from the Seibu Ikebukuro line Kiyose station (15 minutes),
the Seibu Ikebukuro line Akitsu station (30 minutes),
or the JR Musashino line Shin-Akitsu station (30 minutes)



[Noborito District]

Nagao 6-21-1, Tama-Ku,
Kawasaki 214-8585, Japan
TEL: +81-44-865-6111
FAX: +81-44-865-6124

[By Public Transportation]

Take the JR Nambu line to Noborito station and take the Kawasaki city bus (10 minutes)
Get off the bus at the Goshozuka bus stop and walk up the hill (10 minutes)

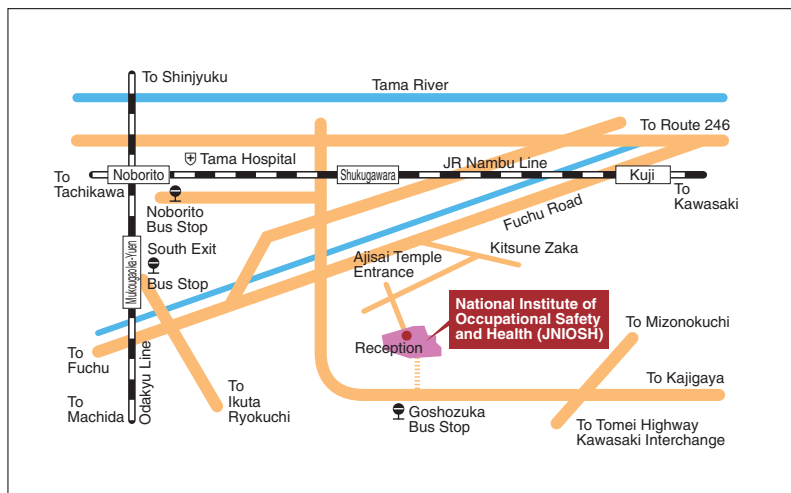
Take the Odakyu Line to Mukogaoka-yuen station and use the south exit
From the south exit take the Tokyu bus bound for Kajigaya station (15 minutes)
Get off the bus at the Goshozuka bus stop and walk up the hill (10 minutes)

[By Taxi]

Take a taxi from Mukogaoka-Yuen station (8 minutes),
Noborito station (8 minutes),
or Mizonokuchi station (15 minutes) directly

[On Foot]

You can walk from the JR Nambu line Kuji station (25 minutes),
or Shukugawara station (25 minutes)





National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan

Web page : <https://www.jniosh.johas.go.jp/>