

worker-wearable  worker-attachable

# industrial robotics



Exoskeleton Technical  
Interchange Meeting



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## Exoskeleton Technical Interchange Meeting

Crystal Gateway Marriott  
Arlington, Virginia  
June 28 and 29, 2017





# NIST

National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Environmental Management



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## Sandia National Laboratories



# SRNL<sup>TM</sup>

SAVANNAH RIVER NATIONAL LABORATORY  
OPERATED BY SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS





# Meeting Purpose

Engage the robotics community on **industrial** applications of **human-wearable** and **human-attachable robotic devices** to enable and **proliferate use** in the **workforce**



Images Courtesy  EXOSKELETON REPORT



# Agenda Highlights: Industry Perspectives







# Agenda Highlights: Breakout Sessions

- ❖ Test Methods and Metrics
- ❖ Ergonomics
- ❖ Sizing and Fitting
- ❖ Risks and Regulation







# Agenda Highlights: Topical Discussions

- ❖ Workplace Physical Demands and Musculoskeletal Injury Surveillance (NIOSH)
- ❖ Standards, Terminology Working Group, ASTM Standards Development (NIST)
- ❖ Update on Military Applications (NSRDEC)
- ❖ Update on Medical Applications (VA and FDA)





# DOE-EM Perspectives

- ❖ Wearable, prosthetic-like, exoskeletal, and other attachable robotic devices that serve as
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE) and/or
  - Performance augmentation and amplification devices (PAADs)

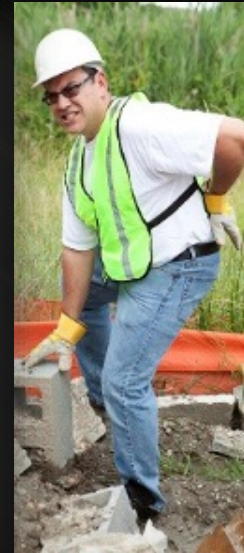




# Robotic PPE



Protect workers from sustaining **internal injuries** due to forceful or over-exertion, fatigue, hyperextension, over-rotation, abrupt movements, repetitive motion or stress, repetitive or excessive vibration, awkward or prolonged postures, and possibly the latent effects of aging





# Traditional PPE



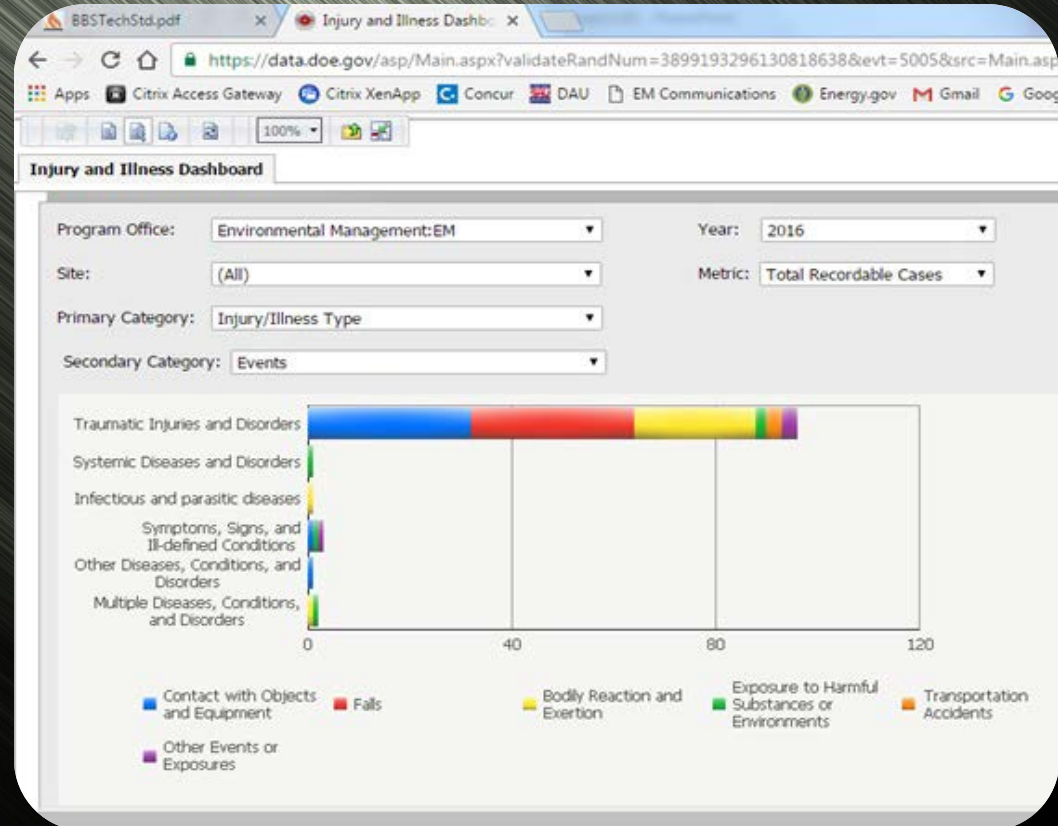
Current PPE protect workers from **external hazards** and exposures in the workplace





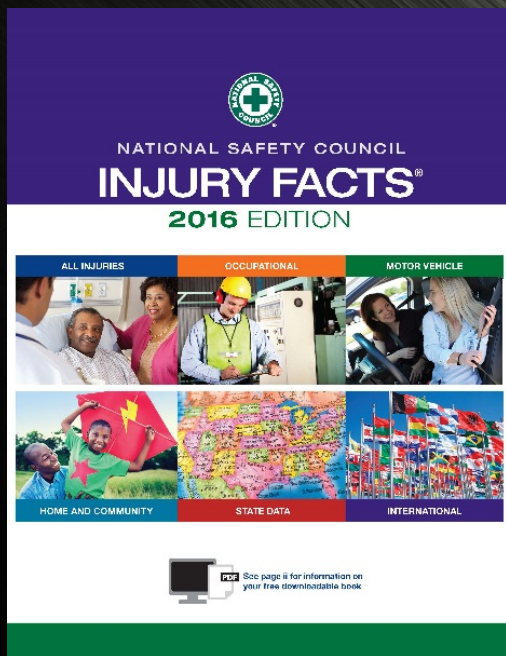
# Preventing Injuries

- ❖ Top three injuries at EM sites are
- 1) Contact with objects and equipment [■],
- 2) Falls [■] and,
- 3) Bodily reaction exertion [■]





# Preventing Injuries

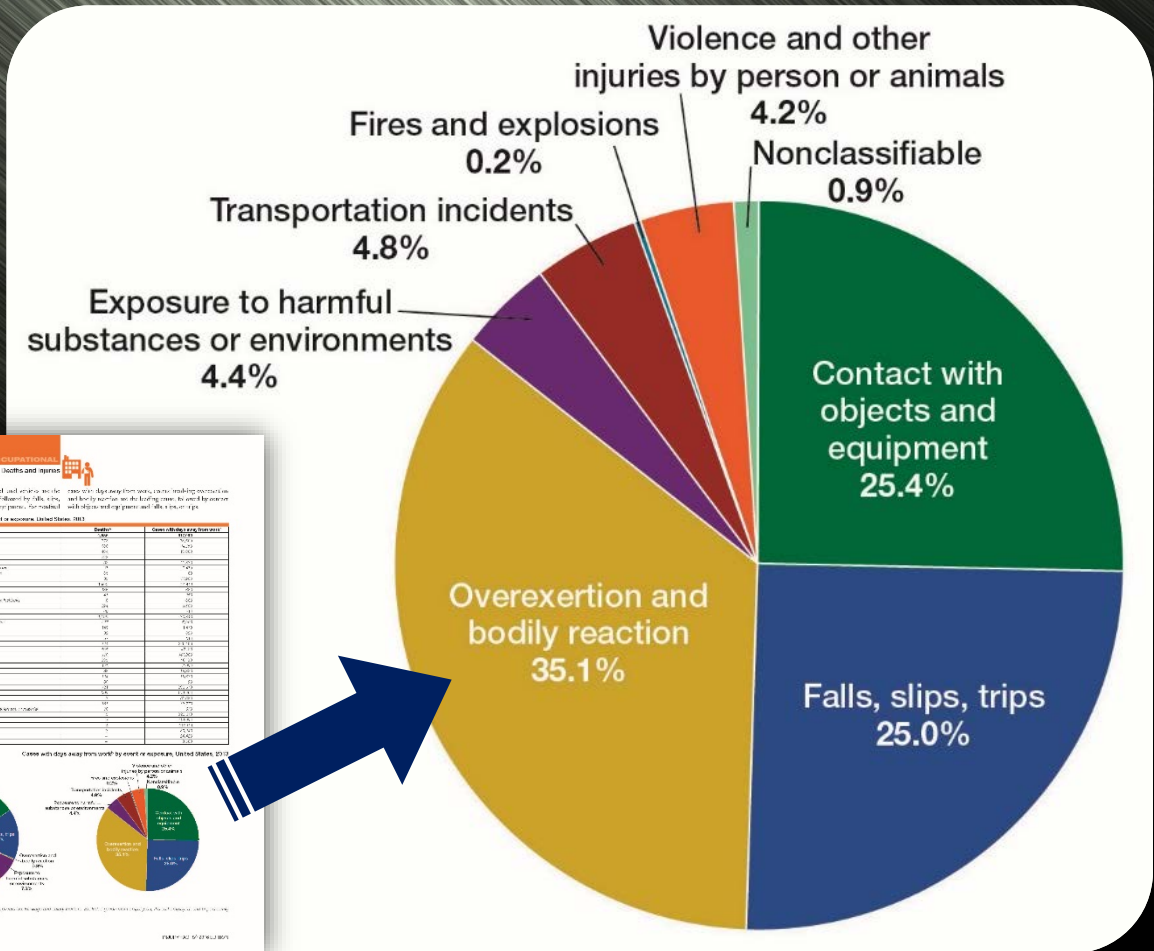


Cases with days away from work by event or exposure. *United States, 2013*

**Occupational Causes of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses**

Summary: Table showing the number of cases with days away from work by event or exposure, United States, 2013. The table lists various occupational categories and their corresponding number of cases.

Event or Exposure	Cases	Percent of Total
Overexertion and bodily reaction	12,243	35.1%
Falls, slips, trips	6,250	18.8%
Contact with objects and equipment	3,412	10.0%
Transportation incidents	2,000	5.9%
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	1,800	5.3%
Violence and other injuries by person or animals	1,700	5.0%
Fires and explosions	1,000	2.9%
Nonclassifiable	500	1.5%





# Performance Augmentation and Amplification Devices



Enable workers to more **easily perform tasks** that are physically stressful or demanding, mentally taxing, ergonomically challenging, or even beyond human capability







EM is actively promoting the use of advanced robotic technologies as a key mission-enabler



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