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COMMON INJURIES
FACTS

Injury Hotspots Welders

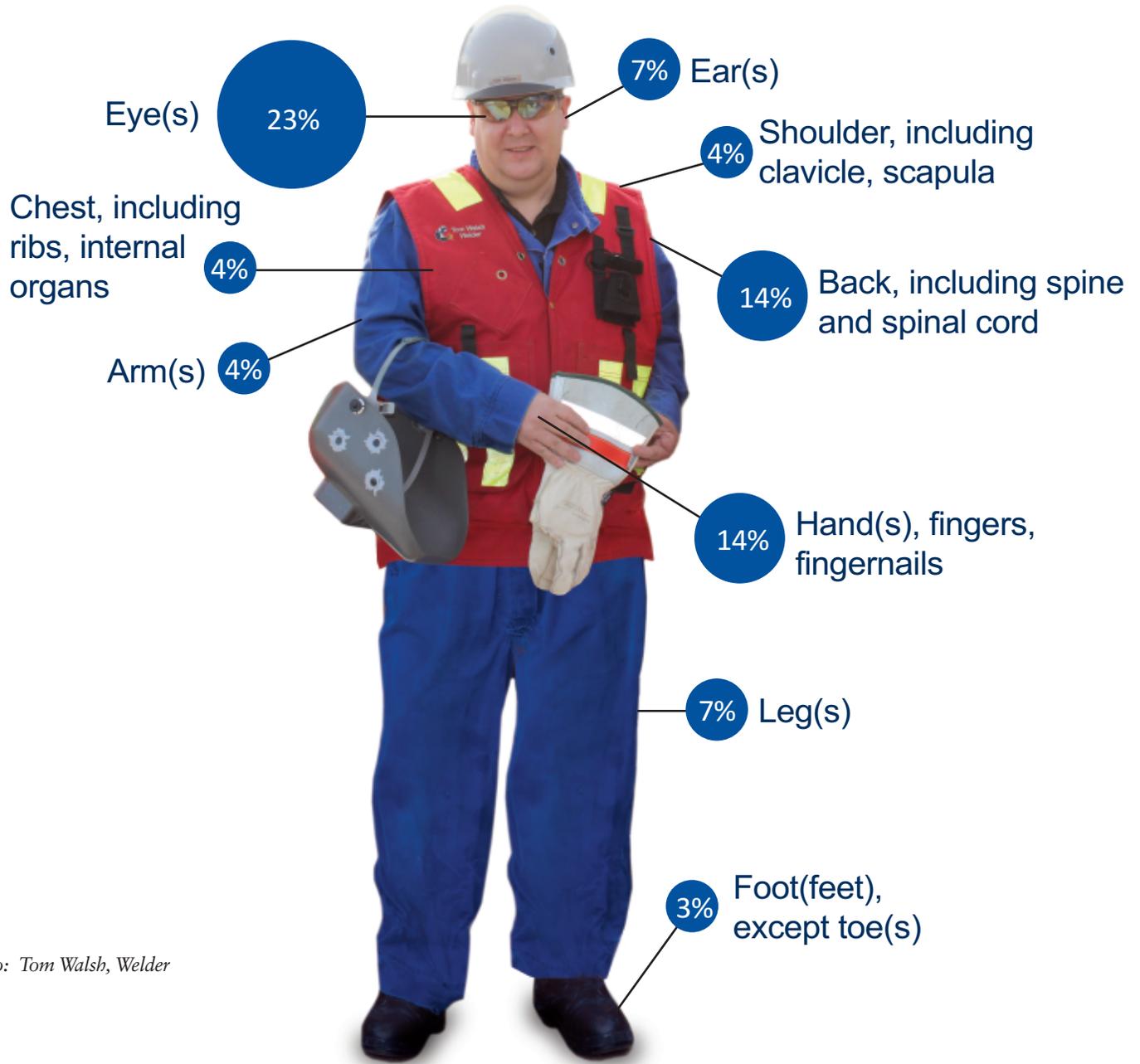


photo: Tom Walsh, Welder

SOURCES

Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission injury prevention database based on eight years of accepted claims. Figures shown refer to the most common injuries by body part and do not represent 100 per cent of injury claims.



COMMON INJURIES FACTS

Injury Hotspots Welders *Prevention Tips*



SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

- Use the highest level of fall protection such as guard railing, scaffolds, physical barriers or elevated work platforms.
- Ensure all working areas and access points are clean, level, well-lit and in good repair.
- Remove unwanted material and construction waste regularly from work site so it does not accumulate.
- Ensure construction materials, power leads, tools and equipment are handled and positioned carefully to avoid creating tripping hazards.
- Rebar ends should be fitted with protective caps.

LIFTING, PUSHING, PULLING AND HANDLING MATERIALS

- Have bulky materials delivered to the final work location or use mechanical load shifting devices (e.g. cranes, material hoists, forklifts, hand trucks).
- Heavy or awkward loads should have lifting points or handles fitted.
- Ask for smaller sizes when ordering materials.
- Use personal protective equipment that is suited to the task (e.g. long trousers, boots, knee protection pads, puncture/impact resistant gloves).
- Sharp edges of metal sheeting and strips should be covered.

NOISE

- Prevent hearing loss by using noise insulated (hired, subcontracted or directly owned) equipment (e.g. silence compressors).
- Separate people from noisy activities or use barriers and screens to block the direct path of sound.
- Wear hearing protection when using power tools.
- Place warning signs in areas of excessive and continual noise.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Select a welding helmet that is proper for the type of welding that you are doing.
- Select clothing that is cotton based to prevent your clothing from melting from sparks.
- Wear heavy duty leather welding gloves specifically designed for the task.
- Wear appropriate foot protection to protect against molten metal and slag.
- Weld in a place that has sufficient ventilation and wear a welding respirator where required.

EYE PROTECTION

- Wear CSA approved protective eyewear that is appropriate to the conditions of the workplace.
- Use a pair of safety glasses beneath your welding mask for some additional coverage for your eyes.

For further information visit: www.whscc.nl.ca/prevention or, call the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission at:
1-800-563-9000