
Safer Ports Initiative: Health & safety in the Ports industry

Christine Barringer

Head of Transportation Section



The case for health and safety

- Moral argument
- Legal argument
- Business argument
 - Commercial effects
 - Cost of accidents
 - Links to quality and other systems

Underlying issues in the industry

- Multiple employers sharing a common workplace
 - Controlling risks to own employees
 - Controlling risks generated for others
- Economic & time pressures
- Divided responsibilities
- Contractorisation
- Lack of control over incoming cargo/ships

Key issues

- Number of injuries increasing
- Solutions require partnership
 - Between different employers
 - Between employers and staff
 - Between regulators and industry
- Beyond simple compliance
- Leadership is vital

What did we learn from SPI1?



- Leadership
- Sensible risk management
- Worker involvement
- Competent and trained staff
- Sharing good practice & working in partnership

Leadership

- Setting direction
- Challenging the organisation
- Identifying & prioritising the risks
- Seeing for yourself
- Checking out the reality
- Demonstrate that you mean what you say

Sensible risk assessment

- Risk assessments have to be fit for purpose
 - Good enough
 - Useful
 - Appropriate to the task/environment
- Risk cannot/should not be eliminated but managed/controlled
- Work is actually done more efficiently and effectively when done safely

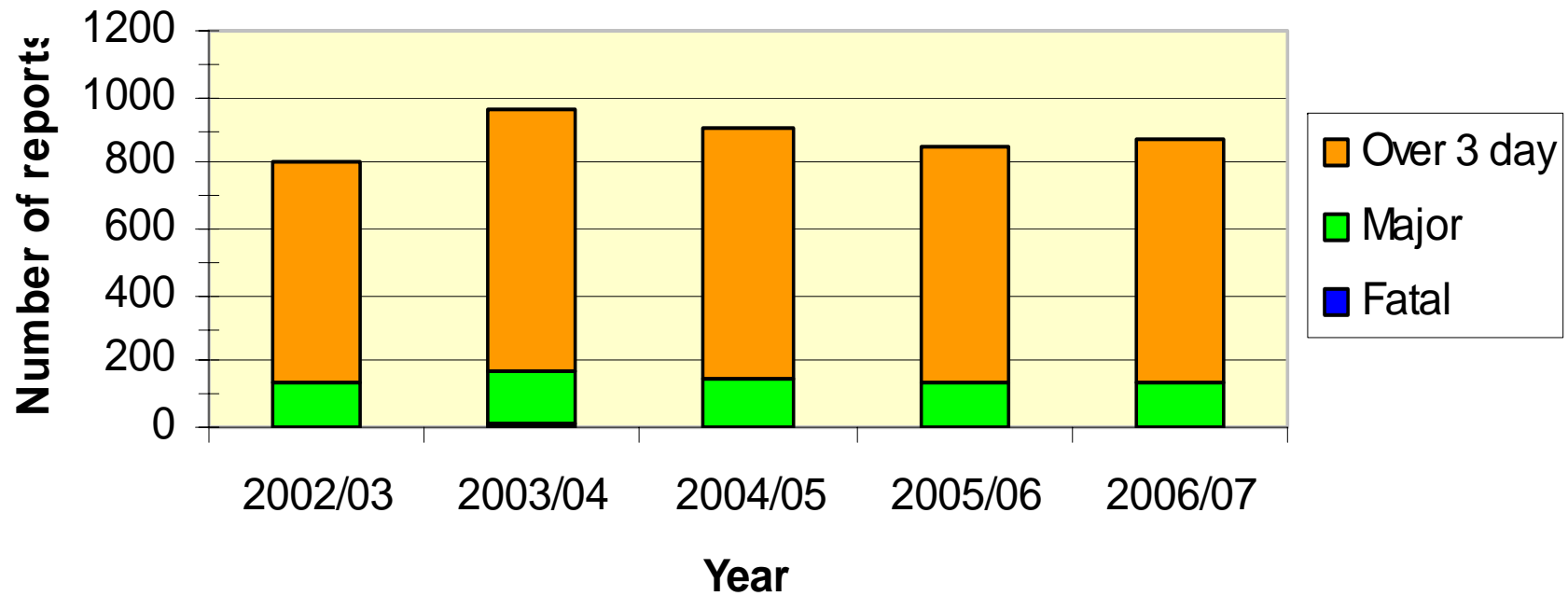
Sensible risk assessment

- Not safety at any cost
- Understanding of conflicting priorities and pressures
- Risks are different in different organisations and should be addressed appropriately & proportionately
- Over prescription can be dangerous if people stop thinking

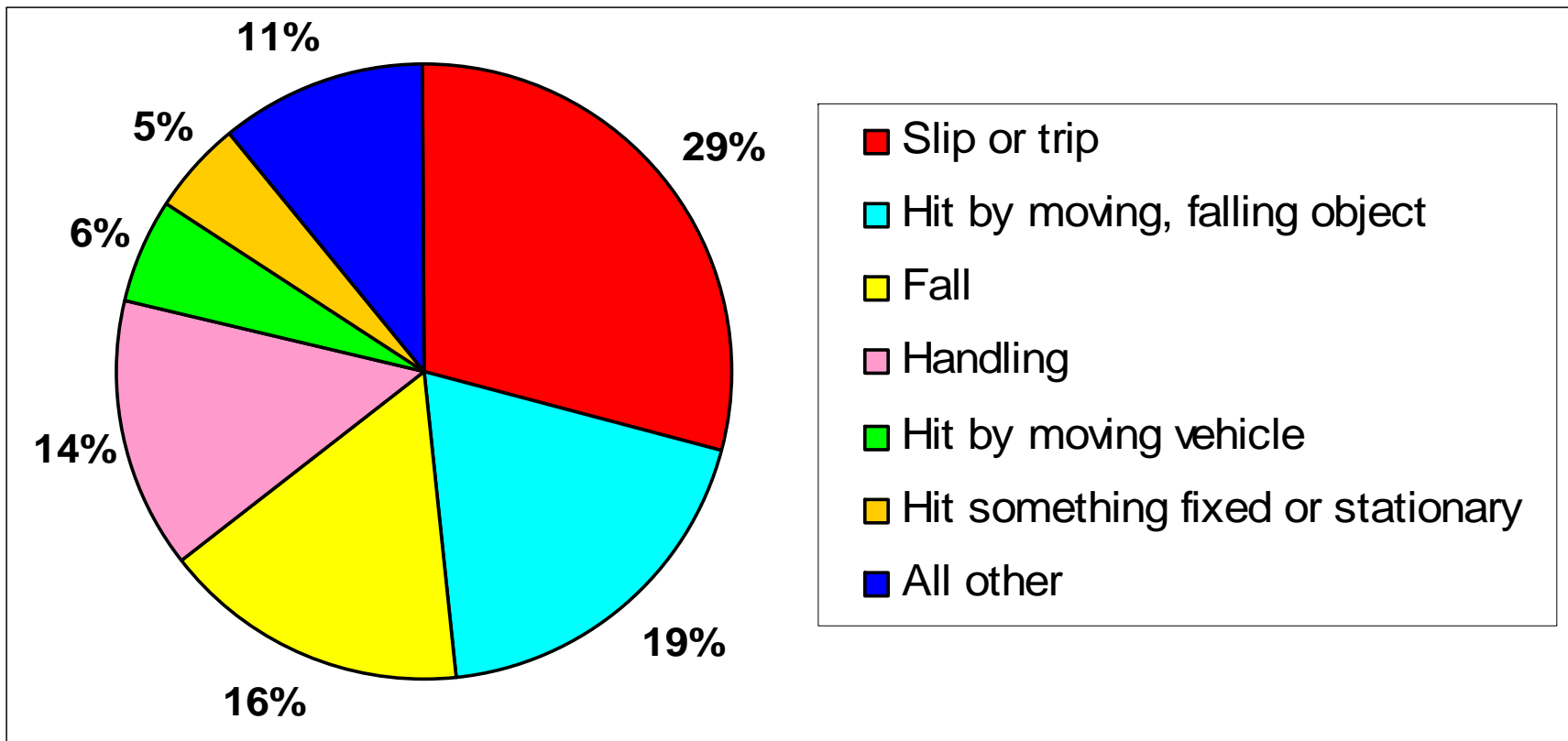
Total number of RIDDOR accidents reported



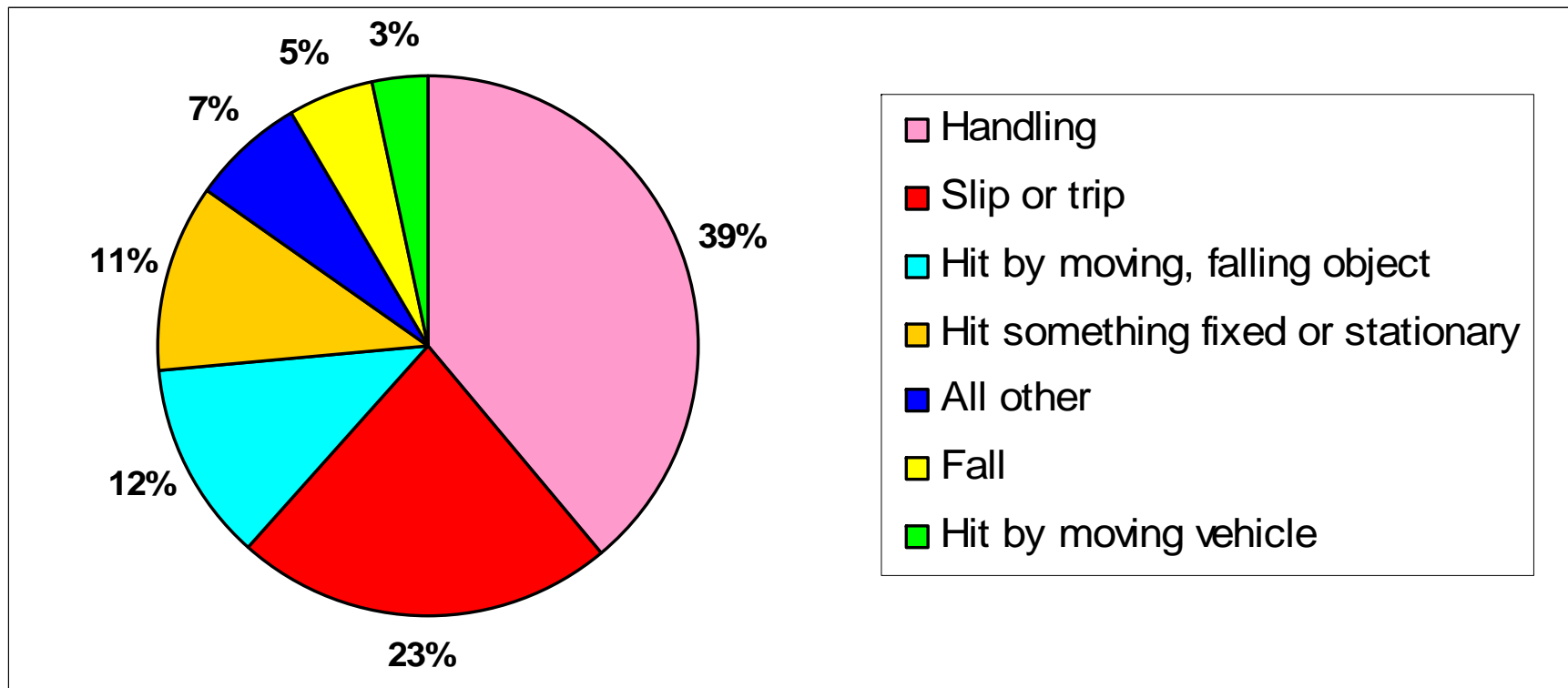
RIDDOR reported accidents to employees & self-employed in water based industries: 2002 to 2007



Fatal & major accidents by causation



Over 3 day accidents by causation



Manual handling - baggage



Manual handling – container lashing



Work at height



Cranes



Container safety



Dust



Workplace transport



Workplace transport - coupling



Workplace transport – load security



Workplace transport – falls



Safe storage



And finally.....

A chance to:

- Take responsibility and ownership for H&S
- Put own house in order
- Enhance reputation of industry
- Drive down accidents, ill-health and working days lost
- Improve business performance