



Forensic Ergonomics: An Introduction to Theory and Practice

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Every year, thousands of people around the world are injured while operating improperly designed equipment, working at poorly created stations, and using unreasonably dangerous products. Additionally, allegations of defect and fault are often claimed by an injured party against a manufacturer or employer who has taken reasonable steps to prevent injury and make their equipment, products, and job sites as ergonomically sound as possible.

The field of human factors/ergonomics has grown into countless areas of human-system interactions, from product and machine design to driver safety and workplace injury reduction. There is now a large body of well established and empirical research to serve as the foundation for analyzing personal-injury and property-damage incidents to determine what happened, why it happened, could it have been safely mitigated, and who was responsible to ensure it did not happen. As such, human factors/ergonomics scientists and practitioners are being called upon in greater numbers to assist the courts in determining just outcomes for litigants. Their analyses and conclusions are being used to establish theories of liability for assigning corporate and social responsibility as well as defenses to such allegations.

This presentation introduces attendees to the field of forensic ergonomics, discusses general guidelines and steps of how to conduct a forensic ergonomics incident investigation, and concludes with an actual case study from the presenters' professional experience.