INDIVIDUAL RESILIENCE CAN REDUCE STRESS, CONFLICT, AND INJURIES

Table 1 shows some characteristics of the 837 construction workers who responded to our survey in 2015 and 2016.

Table 1: Demographic factors of participants	
	Avg.
Age (years)	36.7
Experience (years in construction)	14.2
Job Tenure (years with current employer)	6.2
Num. of construction employers in previous 3 years	2.2
Num. of projects worked in previous 3 years	10.1

Construction workers reported on average:

- 6 physical symptoms / injuries
- 3.6 unsafe events
- 3.6 stress symptoms in the previous 3 months.

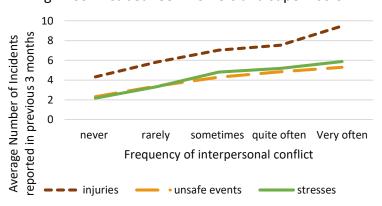
Interpersonal conflict may range from minor disagreements to assault. It may be overt (e.g. being openly rude to a coworker) or covert (e.g. spreading rumors about a coworker).

Individual resilience relates to one's coping skills to deal with or adapt to adversity and unforeseen situations.

An individual's resilience can strengthen or weaken depending on the working environment.

Figure 1 shows that as conflict increases from never to very often, injuries, unsafe events, and stress *double*.

Fig 1: Conflict between workers and supervisors



People with stronger coping abilities reported fewer conflicts, safety incidents, and stress. **Improving conflict management could improve safety**.



A Research Minute #1701 is produced by: Dr. Brenda McCabe Department of Civil Engineering University of Toronto Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 1A4

For more details about this research, see:

Chen, Y, McCabe, BY, and Hyatt, D, 2017, "The relationship between individual resilience, interpersonal conflicts at work, safety performance and stresses of construction workers", Journal of Construction Engineering and Management

Copies of the Research Minute or journal publication are available at:
http://civil.engineering.utoronto.ca/staff/professors/brenda-mccabe/factors-affecting-safetyperformance-of-construction-workers/
Or by request from
brenda.mccabe@utoronto.ca
416-946-3505

This report was part of the doctoral research undertaken by Yuting (Tina) Chen, PhD Civil Engineering University of Toronto

The research was supported by Ontario Ministry of Labour Research Opportunities Program (ROP) grant 13R-047. We would like to thank all of the construction companies, production and safety managers, supervisors, workers, and site personnel for their support, engagement, and participation.