

## Overview of the accidents in FY 2006

Article 35 of the NPA (National Personnel Authority) Rule 10-4 (Employees' Health and Safety Management) requires the heads of each ministry and agency to report to NPA a "serious accident, etc." (an accident which causes the death of an employee at his or her workplace, a fire which leads to the sickness or injury of three or more employees at least one of them is forced to have one or more days off, or a serious accident such as the rupture of a boiler) whenever one occurs, and all accidents including serious accidents that have occurred during the fiscal year (a accident which causes the death of an employee at his or her workplace, or forces an employee to have one or more days off) by the end of June in the following fiscal year. This chapter is written based on such reports.

The accidents which affected regular national public employees (excluding employees of state-run enterprises, Specified Independent Administrative Institutions and Japan Post) in FY 2006 are outlined as follows:

### 1. Full-time employees (300,000 people)

- (1) The total number of those who were killed in the accidents and those who were injured in the accidents and forced to have one or more days off (hereinafter referred to as "casualties") was 258, an increase of 17 over the previous fiscal year. Showing the annual casualty rate (Note 1), the ratio has risen by 0.07 points from 0.79 in the previous fiscal year to 0.86 this fiscal year. The ratio of the casualties who were forced to have four or more days off also increased by 0.06 points from 0.56 in the previous fiscal year to 0.62 this fiscal year. No employee was killed in the accidents. (2 deaths in the previous fiscal year)
- (2) Looking at the casualties according to the number of days off, 73 people (compared to 70 in the previous fiscal year) had one to three days off, 36 people (35 in the previous fiscal year) had four to seven days off, 96 people (82 in the previous fiscal year) had eight to thirty days off, and 53 people (54 in the previous fiscal year) had 31 days or more off (including deaths). Those who had four or more days off numbered 185 (171 in the previous fiscal year), accounting for 71.7% of the total casualties (70.9% in the previous fiscal year).
- (3) In terms of type of accident (Note 2), Martial Arts Training caused 86 casualties (33.3% of the total) and tops the list, followed by Falls causing 35 casualties (13.6%), Crash or Descent causing 24 casualties (9.3%), Reaction to Motion and Others causing 17 casualties (6.6%), and Traffic Accidents (on the road) causing 15 casualties (5.8%). These five major causes are responsible for 68.6% of the total casualties.

The analysis of the accidents by type of accident shows that out of the top five causes, Falls, Reaction to Motion and Others, and Traffic Accidents (on the road) have decreased in terms of both casualty toll and percentage of total, while Martial Arts Training is on the increase. Therefore, it is necessary to work harder to prevent accidents, especially in Martial Arts Training.

(4) Looking at the casualties according to the Cause of the Accident (Note 2) (large classification), Temporary Construction, Buildings, Structures and Others (stairs, hallway and others) caused 63 casualties (24.4% of the total casualties), followed by Lifting and Transporting machinery (vehicles, motor conveyer, etc.) causing 22 casualties (8.5%), Other Equipment, etc. (tools, manual machines, etc.) causing 18 casualties (7.0%), and Environment and Others (natural things, animals, etc.) causing 18 casualties (7.0%). These four factors contributed to 46.9% of the total casualties.

In terms of Cause of the Accident (middle classification), an analysis of the accidents shows that Temporary Construction, Buildings, Structures and Others, and Martial Arts Training still continue to come first. (See Table 2.)

(5) The analysis of the casualties by type of duty (Note 2) shows that Martial Arts Training causing 77 casualties (29.8% of the total) and Transit (walking, traveling by car or bicycle, etc.) causing 54 casualties (20.9%) are the two main factors, followed by Maritime duties causing 39 casualties (15.1%), Administrative duties (including office work) causing 16 casualties (6.2%), and Investigation, Inspection and Observation causing 16 casualties (6.2%). These five items make up 78.3% of the total.

(6) One serious accident occurred (compared to three in the previous year), and there were seven casualties (two in the previous year) with no fatalities (two in the previous year). The analysis of the accidents by type of accident shows that one serious accident, which is categorized into others (food poisoning), caused seven casualties. Though the number of accidents decreased compared to the previous year, the number of casualties increased by five. This is because mass food poisoning occurred. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

(7) As far as maritime employees are concerned, 39 casualties had one or more days off, accounting for 15.1% of the total casualties (compared to 19 casualties or 7.9% in the previous year). No seaman has been killed in any accident since 1999.

## 2. Part-time employees

47 employees were killed or injured and had one or more days off (compared to 35 in the previous fiscal year). The number of the casualties increased by 12 from the previous year and by 23 from the year before last.

The analysis of the casualties among part-time employees by type of accident shows that Falls are responsible for 16 casualties (up from seven in the previous year) and Traffic Accidents (on the road) caused 19 casualties (up from 14 in the previous year). Both of them caused more casualties than in the previous year. Falls and Traffic Accidents (on the road) accounted for 74.5 percent of the total casualties, an extremely high proportion compared to other items. In terms of type of duty, accidents arising from Transit caused 32 casualties this fiscal year, 8 more than in the previous year (24 employees). Compared to the year before last, 22 more employees were killed or injured in this fiscal year. Among part-time employees, no one has been killed in any accident since 2001.

(Note 1) The annual casualty rate, frequency rate and severity rate are used to show the incidence of casualties caused by accidents. Definitions of these terms are as follows:

- ① The annual casualty rate indicates the ratio of casualties caused by accidents in a year for every 1,000 employees. The formula for this ratio is given below.

The annual casualty rate

$$= \text{Annual casualty toll} / \text{Average annual number of employees} \times 1,000$$

- ② The frequency rate is the number of casualties of accidents per million working hours. The formula for this rate is given below.

Frequency rate

$$= \text{Casualty toll} / \text{Total working hours} \times 1,000,000$$

- ③ The severity rate shows the number of working days lost due to accidents per thousand working hours. The formula for this rate is given below.

Severity rate

$$= \text{Lost working days} / \text{Total working hours} \times 1,000$$

When an employee is killed in an accident, the number of lost working days is set at 7,500. In other cases, the number of days off the employee actually had is used.

(Note 2) Type of Accident, Cause of the Accident and Type of Duty are used to classify the accidents. In Type of Duty, official duties are sorted according to the accident situation. Two other categories, Type of Accident and Cause of the Accident, were adopted in 1987 and include the two items which cause many accidents in the public sector, Martial Arts Training and Recreation/Sports, based on Type of Accident and Classification of Cause of the Accident (Item 44 of Circular Notice issued by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare on January 30, 1973). The definition of these two is described as follows:

- ① Type of Accident means the phenomenon related to the Cause of the Accident, which injures an employee or makes him or her sick. There are 19 items such as Crash or Descent, and Falls in this category.
- ② Cause of the Accident refers to machines, equipment, environment or any other things that cause an injury or illness. There are eight large classifications such as Power Machinery and Materials/Substances, and 26 middle classifications including Motor and Power Transmission Devices, Wood Processing Machines, and Hazardous and Harmful Materials.

Table 1 Transition of types of accident [Top 5] (FY2002-2006)

	FY2002		FY2003		FY2004		FY2005		FY2006	
	Type of accident	Number of casualties	Type of accident	Number of casualties	Type of accident	Number of casualties	Type of accident	Number of casualties	Type of accident	Number of casualties
1 <sup>st</sup>	Martial art training	56	Martial art training	75	Martial art training	78	Martial art training	61	Martial art training	86
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fall	47	Fall	62	Fall	32	Fall	37	Fall	35
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Crash or descent	36	Retroaction	42	Crash or descent	27	Retroaction	27	Crash or descent	24
4 <sup>th</sup>	Recreation/sports	35	Recreation/sports	25	Retroaction	19	Crash or descent	25	Retroaction	17
5 <sup>th</sup>	Retroaction	29	Crash or descent	23	Traffic accident (Road accident)	18	Traffic accident (Road accident)	24	Traffic accident (Road accident)	15

Table 2 Transition of accident-causing objects (based on the middle classification) [Top 5] (FY2002-2006)

	FY2002		FY2003		FY2004		FY2005		FY2006	
	Accident-causing object	Number of casualties	Accident-causing object	Number of casualties	Accident-causing object	Number of casualties	Accident-causing object	Number of casualties	Accident-causing object	Number of casualties
1 <sup>st</sup>	Temporary construction, building, etc.	57	Martial art training	75	Martial art training	78	Temporary construction, building, etc.	66	Martial art training	86
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Martial art training	56	Temporary construction, building, etc.	59	Other accident-causing objects (Salmonella, etc.)	47	Martial art training	61	Temporary construction, building, etc.	63
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Recreation/sports	35	No accident-causing object	31	Temporary construction, building, etc.	45	Vehicle	36	Vehicle	22
4 <sup>th</sup>	Human	32	Recreation/sports	25	Vehicle	25	Too(Furniture)	19	Environment	16
5 <sup>th</sup>	Vehicle	31	Vehicle	24	No accident-causing object	18	Recreation/sports	10	Recreation/sports	15

Table 3 Number of accidents and casualties by type of accident (FY2006)

Type of accident	Number of accidents	Number of casualties	
		Fatality	Injury
Total	1	7	7
Food poisoning	1	7	7

Table 4 Transition of the number of accidents and casualties (FY2002-2006)

		FY	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006
Total	Number of accidents		7	5	2	3	1
	Number of casualties		5	20	39	2	7
	Fatality		1	4	0	2	0
	Injury		4	16	39	0	7
Accident which was caused by a single incident and resulted in three or more casualties	Number of accidents		1	2	2	0	1
	Number of casualties		3	16	39	0	7
	Fatality		0	0	0	0	0
	Injury		3	16	39	0	7
Other disasters And accidents	Number of accidents		6	3	0	3	0
	Number of casualties		2	4	0	2	0
	Fatality		1	4	0	2	0
	Injury		1	0	0	0	0