The Injury Project

Rita Reischke

Rita Reischke is an artist living and working in Los Angeles.
She obtained her MFA from University of Southern California

Reischke, Rita (2000). **The Injury Project.** *Knowledge Organization, 27(3).* 109-121.

This work is an attempt to visually document all established *mechanisms* of an injury event. It is based upon the World Health Organization document, *International Classification of Diseases – The External Causes Code,* that demarcates and categorizes all possible combinations of *mechanisms* of injury as several thousand E-codes.

The repetitive, non-descriptive noun and verb use, translating injury events, present a curiously obscure version of a real, unique, often traumatic and personal experience. Highly edited, transplanted and all specific references lost, the reader of this World Health Organization document must supply their own specific interpretation. *The External Cause Codes,* obsessed with quantifiable detail, remain fragmentary. These codes indicate extensive exclusions and abstract divisions – difference pushed to indifference.

The Injury Project accentuates this vague and outrageously arbitrary principle of word selection inherent within this conventional, formal and scientific document.

As an example, *The Injury Project – Traffic Series* is one of several series from *The External Cause Codes* in the original exhibition. It includes thirty-two digital image groups. Referencing the established sequence of words appearing in a select number of E-codes, (all injury events that involve the "mechanism" of injury as *Traffic)* each image group incorporates a procession of generic visual images attempting to objectively represent the nonspecific words used. Thus, the image group entitled *Traffic, MC vs. highway Object* includes three images within a frame: an image of "Traffic," an image of a "MC" (motorcycle) and an image depicting "Highway Object". Titles for each framed image correspond directly with the sequenced E-code numbers and word descriptions as they exist within *The External Causes Code* document.

The selection that follows includes pairs selected from six different series. Images are selected from stock photography.

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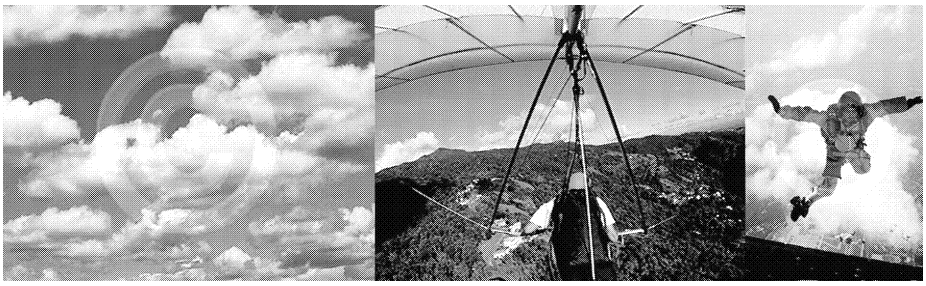

842.7 Air, Unpowered Craft vs. Parachutist

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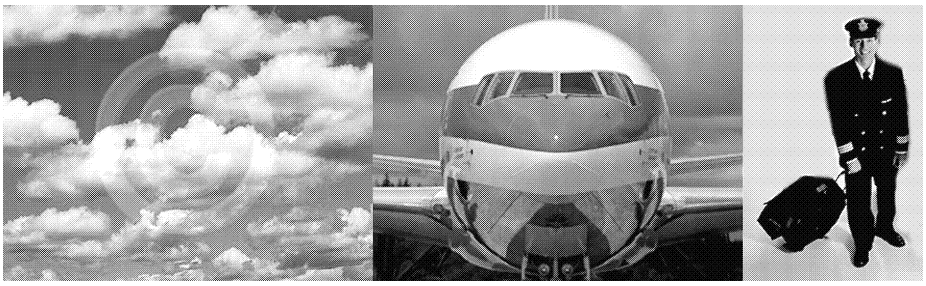

841.2 Air, Powered Craft vs. Crew

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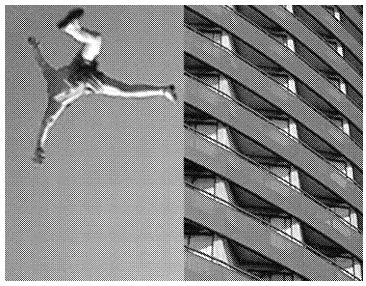

882.2 Fall, from / out of Building

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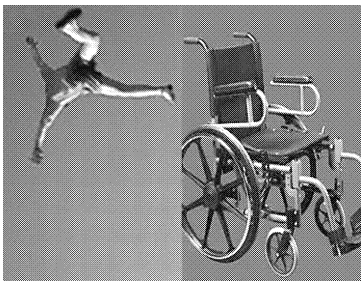

884.3 Fall, from Wheelchair

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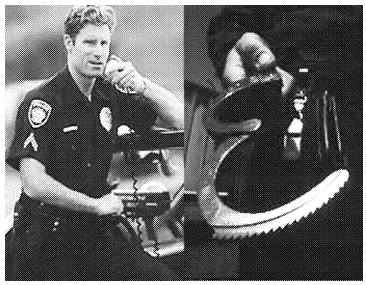

973 Legal Intervention, Blunt Object

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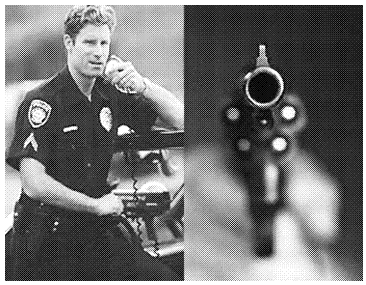

970 Legal Intervention, Firearms

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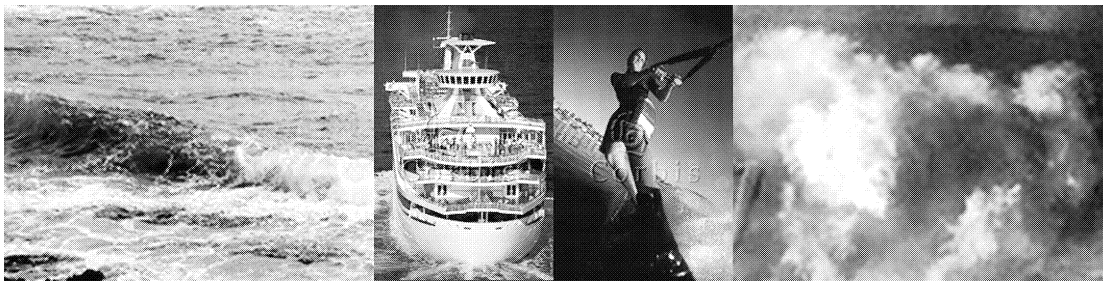

837.4 Water, Craft vs. Water-skier, Fire/Explosion

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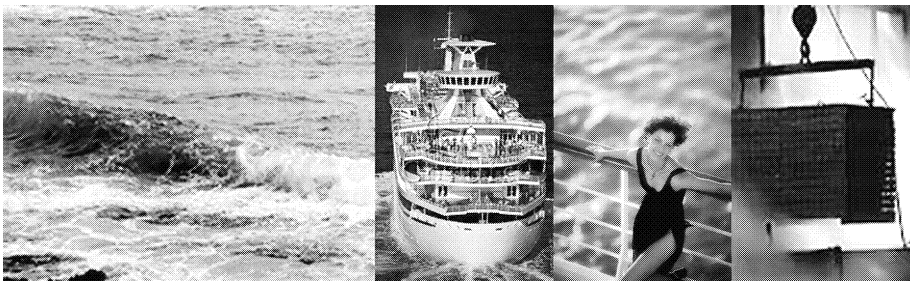

836.3 Water, Craft, Noncrew vs. Machinery

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804.8 Rail, Unauthorized Rider Boarding/Alighting

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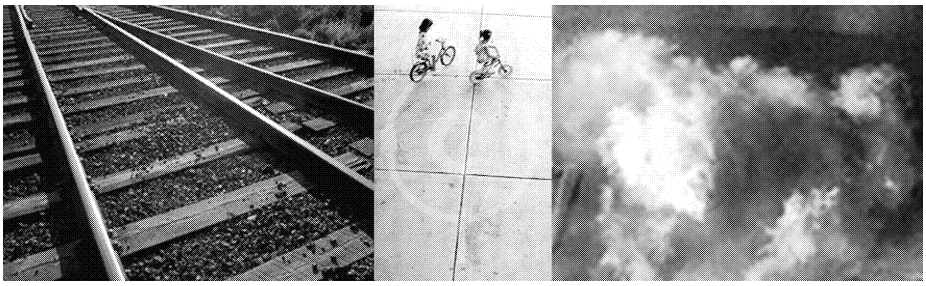

803.3 Rail, Pedal Cyclist Explosion/Fire

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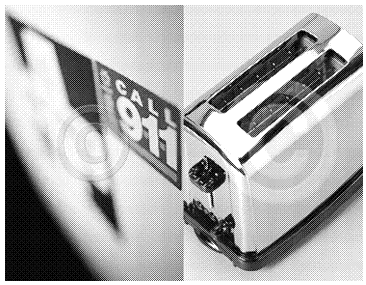

925.0 Accident, Domestic Appliance

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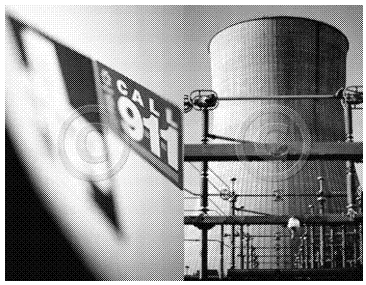

925.1 Accident, Power Plant

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