

The Injury Project

Rita Reischke

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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.

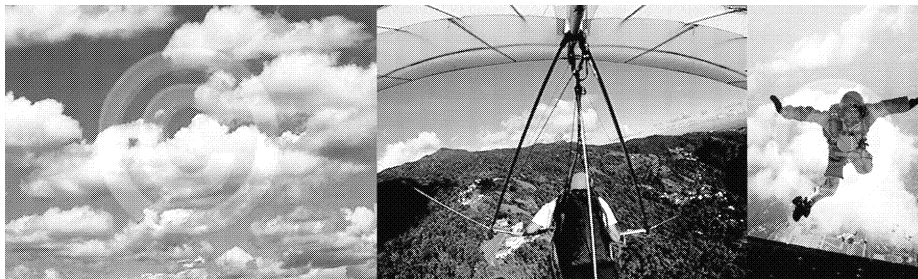
The repetitive, non-descriptive noun and verb use, translating injury events, present a curiously obscure version of a real, unique, often traumatic and personal experience. Highly edited, transplanted and all specific references lost, the reader of this World Health Organization document must supply 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.

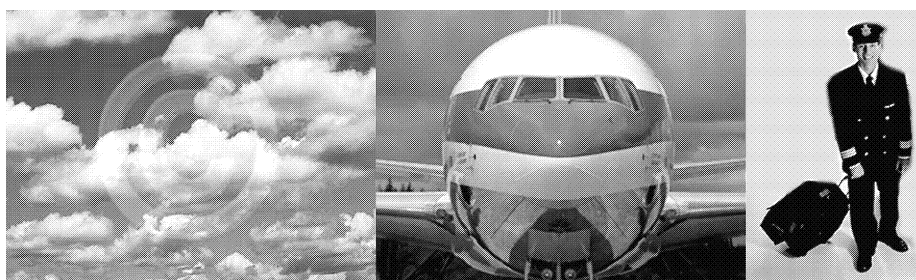
As an example, *The Injury Project – Traffic Series* is one of several series from *The External Cause Codes* in the original exhibition. It includes thirty-two digital image groups. Referencing the established sequence of words appearing in a select number of E-codes, (all injury events that involve 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.

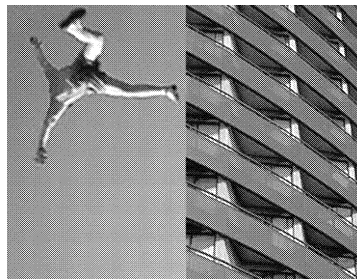
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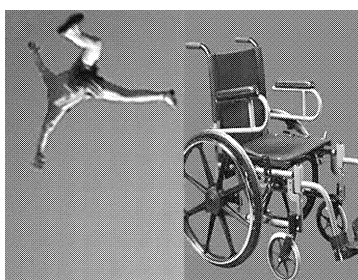
842.7 Air, Unpowered Craft vs. Parachutist



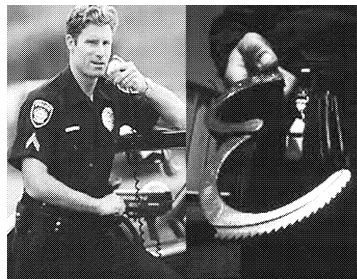
841.2 Air, Powered Craft vs. Crew



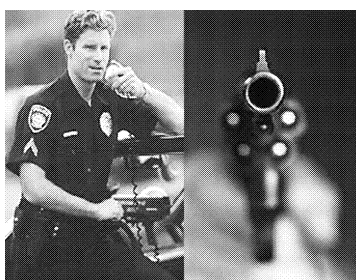
882.2 Fall, from / out of Building



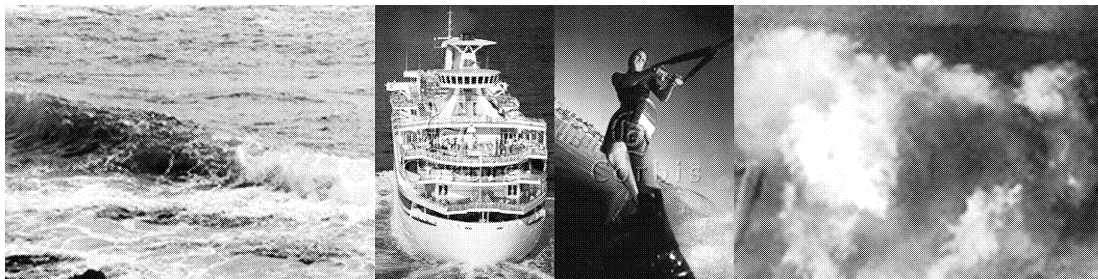
884.3 Fall, from Wheelchair



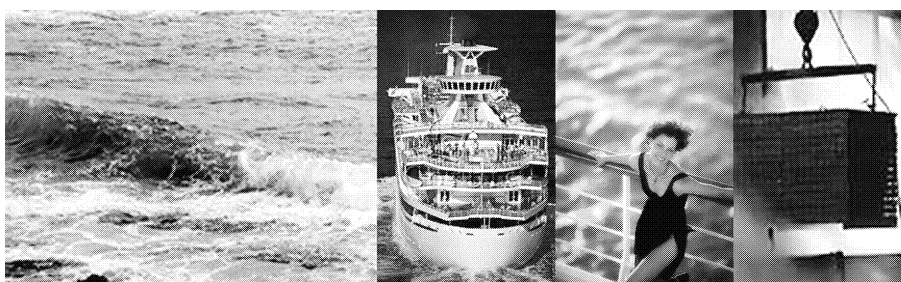
973 *Legal Intervention, Blunt Object*



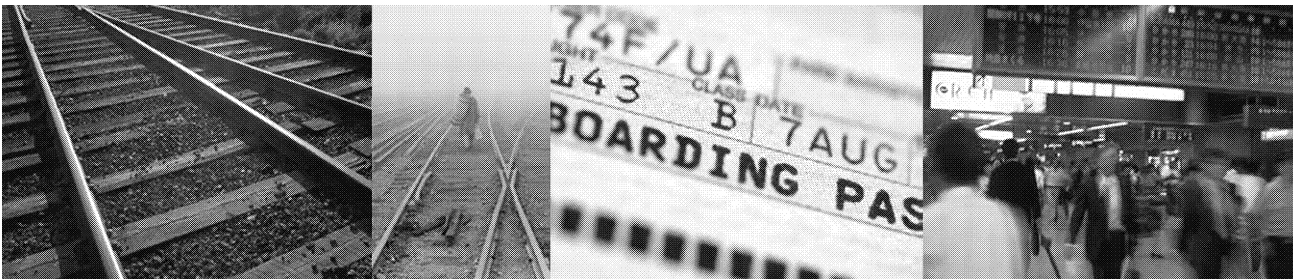
970 *Legal Intervention, Firearms*



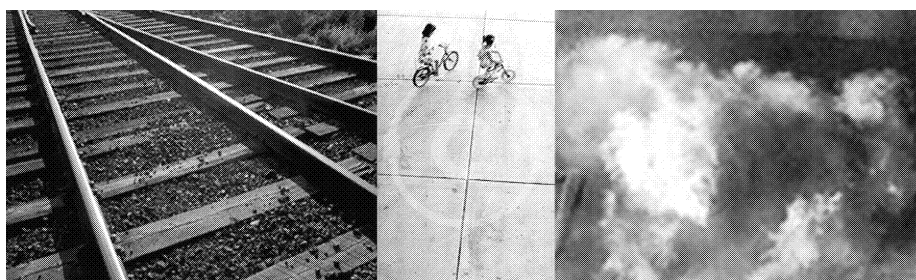
837.4 Water, Craft vs. Water-skier, Fire/Explosion



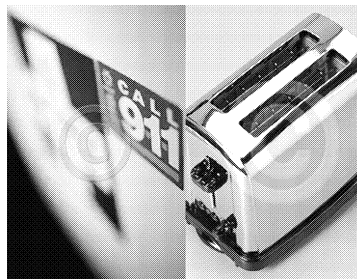
836.3 *Water, Craft, Noncrew vs. Machinery*



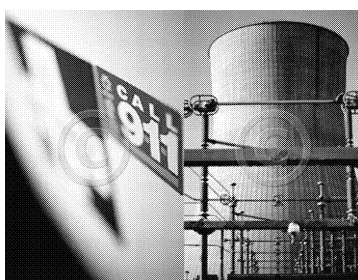
804.8 Rail, Unauthorized Rider Boarding/Alighting



803.3 Rail, Pedal Cyclist Explosion/Fire



925.0 Accident, Domestic Appliance



925.1 Accident, Power Plant