ABSTRACT

Sickness absenteeism in the Military Firefighter

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Introduction: Absenteeism is the absence of the employee from work due to personal reasons or sicknesses. In Brazil, the Military Firefighter Corps has the mission of civil defense, firefighting, and search and rescue. The firefighter profession generates physical and mental stress, it is permeated by many health risks resulted from the activities required in the exercise of the profession. The World Health Organization (WHO), supported by the World Bank, designated the period from 2000 to 2010 as the “Bone and Joint Decade”, due the bone and joint diseases and injuries that has taken place in world population. Musculoskeletal disorders will be the leading cause of health expenditure in the year 2015, worrying information, though it is one of the leading causes of workplace absenteeism and disability [1]. This study aimed to understand the reasons that lead to absenteeism in the Military Fire Corps of Campo Grande, MS, Brazil. Method: Cross-sectional study using secondary data on attestations for absence from work published in the general bulletin of the Military Firefighter Corps, 2009-2011. Firefighters had a journey of 24 hours work day followed by 48 hours rest (Group A). After June 2010, a new work journey was implemented; 24 hours work day and 72 hours rest (Group B). Among the attestations there was the predominance of men, between 30 and 39 years, 10 to 19 years in the work force, sergeant, corporal or soldier. Results and Discussion: The study found 1584 absence from work related to medical attestations for illness, mourning, maternity/paternity leave or partial absence from some type of activity. During the period of study, there was 15,575 days of work leave, approximately 5,190 days per year. Leaves of 5 days or less (54.7%). The main medical diagnoses according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10), diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (23.8%) were equivalent to an annual rate of 1588 days of absenteeism. Chapter XXI, factors influencing health status and contact with health services (19.4%) and 911 days per year of work leave. Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (18.9%), and within this chapter, the prevalent reason for absence was dislocation, sprain and strain of joints and ligaments of knee, ankle and foot with 78 (31.6%). When studying the frequency of days away from work for medical reasons, Group A (24h/48h) and Group B (24h/72h), it went from 7,723.25 to 7,861.75 days, and the number of medical attestations reduced from 583 to 571. It is relevant, because despite the reduction in the number of medical leaves in the study period, the number of days away from work increased. Absenteeism rates in the studied period were: Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (4.9%), Injury, poisoning and
certain other consequences of external causes (4.9%), factors influencing health status and contact with health services (2.9%) and mental and behavioral disorders (2.6%). The main medical diagnoses identified in attestations studied were the diseases of the musculoskeletal system. Firefighters, perform their functions in different contexts and almost all of them involving decision-making, muscle strength, exposure to physical, psychological and biological factors, among others; are subjected to overload of work especially in cases of public disasters, when they are summoned even if they are in nonworking time.

Keywords: Absenteeism. Occupational disease. Firefighter

Reference: