



The Safety Frontline

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Upcoming Presentations

In a few short months the conference season will be in full swing and JC Safety & Environmental, Inc. President Pam Ferrante will be traveling around speaking on various topics. If you are planning on attending any of these upcoming conferences, please join her:

- Ohio Safety Congress in Columbus, Ohio; Wednesday April 2nd; 12:30 PM – Topic: “What the Heck is Global Harmonization and Why Should I Care?”

- AIHce 2008 in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Wednesday June 4th at 10:00 AM; Topic: “Are You Trapped by Your Life as a Consultant?”

- AIHce 2008; Wednesday June 4th at 1:00 PM; Pam will be part of a 10-person Roundtable Panel titled “Older Workers, Newer Thinking”.

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More Changes for JC Safety & Environmental, Inc.

In the last issue we made you aware of not only a name change for us, but also an expansion of our operations and services due to growth and the needs of our clients. In keeping with the theme, we are pleased to announce the launch of our revised website. The URL remains the same (www.jcsafety.com), but the layout and content are much easier to navigate. And, as you know because you followed the link to this newsletter, we now will be posting *The Safety Frontline* on the site for reading and downloading rather than sending it as an attachment to an email. We have also posted all of our previous issues so you can go back and revisit an article or find a “freebie” we’ve recommended.

As we continue to grow, we hope to populate the site with information and tips you can use in your safety programs as well as links to important information. We love your feedback so don’t hesitate to share it - info@jcsafety.com; 412.414.4769. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this issue.

Keeping it Safe!
Pam Ferrante, CSP, CHMM
President

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The Dangers of Combustible Dust

No one who followed the horrific explosion at the sugar cane refining plant in Georgia in February could remain unaffected by the tremendous loss of life as well as the catastrophic impact of the lives of those injured, the families of all of the victims and the community at large. While the final cause has not yet been determined, an early likely culprit is a combustible dust explosion. Incidents like these have killed more than 100 workers and injured more than 700 in the past 25 years. The US Chemical Safety and Hazard Identification Board (CSB) has been investigating combustible dust incidents and calling for greater awareness of the hazards among those industries most likely to be affected for more than 5 years.

The CSB has also called for issuance of a regulation by OSHA to assure that organizations begin the process of recognizing, evaluating and controlling these hazards across the country. The CSB believes one of the main problems with the current status is that the consensus standard adopted by the National Fire Protection Association is voluntary and that it suffers from a lack of widespread use. The CSB further references the improvements noted by the promulgation of the OSHA's Grain Handling Facilities Standard in 1987 for reducing these explosions.

OSHA has not yet signaled any intention in its Regulatory Agenda to address this issue industry-wide, although the organization has indicated it is evaluating the CSB recommendations. In the meantime, OSHA has begun a targeted inspection program along with a National Emphasis Program. These efforts, begun in October 2007, will focus on those facilities that may be at greatest risk for problems and will allow the local OSHA Area offices to determine which specific facilities to visit.

We'll keep you posted on these efforts; in the meantime, you can learn more about combustible dust and its associated hazards by visiting the CSB website at www.csb.gov. To learn more about OSHA's efforts in this area, go to their Safety and Health Topics Page at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/combustibledust/index.html>

Going Green in the Hospitality Industry

If your organization has caught on to the "green" movement, you may be wondering how that may affect your safety programs. The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Hospitality Branch has published a White Paper detailing some areas where safety professionals may initiate actions in the hospitality industry.

The paper gives a general history of the green movement and provides a broad understanding of its goals and objectives. Several real-life examples demonstrate the savings generated by some simple changes.

The White Paper goes on to list numerous implementation strategies in key organizational areas such as housekeeping and maintenance; lighting; water usage; HVAC; and other operating systems.

You don't need to be a member of the organization to read the White Paper; it is accessible to all at the Society's website:

<http://www.asse.org/practicespecialties/hospitality/docs/HospitalityNewsletter1-15-08.pdf>

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Frontline's Fast Facts

The good news – overall fatalities for 2006 were down at 5,703. Industries showing overall reductions include transportation and warehousing.

The not so good news:

- *The construction industry continues to have the highest number of deaths at 1,226.*
- *While the overall fatality rate for Hispanic workers was lower, it was higher for those in the construction industry. The total was 937; the highest number since records started being kept in 1992.*
- *Fatalities among female workers rose 5%.*
- *Older workers (55+) accounted for 1,518 of all fatalities or ~27%, yet they represent only 16% of the total workforce.*
- *Finally, highway fatalities continue to lead all event types at 23%.*

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Aging Workforce DVD Available

Regular readers of this newsletter know that President Pam Ferrante has been traveling the country in the past few years speaking about the current trend of the aging of the US workforce. Her presentations have been aimed at increasing the awareness of this workplace demographic and encouraging other professionals to begin to address the issue in their organizations. In the past few years she has spoken at the National Safety Council's Annual Conference in San Diego, the AIHce Annual Conference in Philadelphia, and the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Mangers Conference (ACHMM) in Alexandria. She has also done virtual presentations for ACHMM, Progressive Business Publications, and AIHA.

Her presentations give attendees a general overview of the issue including the ways in which we all age and how those normal process (physical, cognitive and psychosocial), impact safety in the workplace. The presentation also includes valuable strategies for reducing incidents and minimizing hazards that are applicable to most organizations.

Last June, Pam presented a 4-hour seminar at the AIHce Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Her seminar was chosen from among the numerous seminar offerings at that event to be recorded for later publication on DVD. The DVD is now available for purchase directly from the American Industrial Hygiene Association by phone at 703-849-8888 or at the following link:

http://iweb.aiha.org/iweb/Purchase/ProductDetail.aspx?Product_code=MEVV07-734

The price for the DVD is \$200.00 for members of AIHA and \$325.00 for non-members.

FRONTLINE'S FAST FREEBIES



Who says you can't get something for nothing? In every issue we will bring you two freebies. Go get 'em!

1. If you or your staff is responsible for training, you know how time consuming it can be to prepare materials for a session, no matter the length. Tool Box Talks or Tail Gate Safety Meetings are used in many industries as a means to provide basic safety information in small manageable amounts of 15-30 minutes. There are two websites that we know where you can download free materials and sign-in sheets on a wide variety of topics. These quick reference guides can make your training preparation time a snap - <http://www.toolboxtopics.com/> and <http://www.webworldinc.com/wes-con/safety2.html-ssi>.
2. For more free resources that can be used for safety training or just plain old twists on the idea of safety, try the following link: <http://www.hsegroupp.com/hse/text/just.htm>. Here you can download the infamous "Cowboy after OSHA" and Biker after OSHA" cartoons as well as Material Safety Data Sheets for coffee and water.

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