



The Safety Frontline

MARCH/APRIL 2009

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

Hurry!!
Early Bird Registration Ends
on March 30th

Join Pam Ferrante as she leads a brand new seminar titled "Moving Out on Your Own: Developing a Successful OEHS Consulting Practice" at the AIHce Professional Development Conference in Toronto on Sunday May 30th.

If you have been downsized in this recession or are concerned that you might be, here's the chance for you to learn how to take charge of your own professional and financial future. This highly interactive session will provide you with all of the information you need to get started including:

- Understanding the various corporate structures and how to pick the one that's right for you;
- How to write a Business Plan that will guide your efforts;
- Financing your start-up and setting billable rates;
- Finding your targeted client base and developing a Marketing Plan.

Follow this link to register. See you in Toronto!!!

<http://registration.experient-inc.com/showaih091/default.aspx>

JC Safety & Environmental, Inc.
321 South Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Phone 412-414-4769

We're on the Web!
www.jcsafety.com

How Ya' Doin'?

Well, it's been a ride these past few months, hasn't it? We are working every day to make sure that your organization has the tools that will help keep safety out in front during these troubled times. We are striving to make sure our services provide the absolute value to you. And we are monitoring the new administration to keep you abreast of the activities that will impact your EH&S program.

No one knows how much longer we will be struggling, but it helps to know we are all in this together. So try not to insulate yourself; reach out and find others who you can help and who can help support you. And don't forget, we are never more than a phone call (412.414.4769) or an email message (info@jcsafety.com) away.

Hang in there!

Keeping it Safe!
Pam Ferrante, CSP, CHMM
President

What's Up in Washington DC?

In February 2009, Hilda L. Soltis became the new Secretary of Labor for the Obama Administration. Secretary Soltis has a BA degree in political science from California State Polytechnic University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. Soltis, whose father was a Teamsters organizer in Mexico and the US, was the first person in her family to earn a university degree. From 2001-2008 she was a member of the US House of Representatives, serving California districts around LA.

During her confirmation hearing she had this to say about her priorities for worker safety: "Workers should not have to sacrifice their lives or their health to keep their jobs," said Soltis. "Workers need time and flexibility to care for their families and themselves. These are American values. They must be America's ordinary way of doing business."

Closely on the heels of Secretary Solits' confirmation, the Obama Administration released preliminary details of its first budget in March. The early news is that it increases funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Although details won't be known until next month, the budget document clearly indicated its commitment to worker safety by saying: "For the past eight years, the department's labor law enforcement agencies have struggled with growing workloads and shrinking staff. The president's budget seeks to reverse this trend, restoring the department's ability to meet its responsibilities to working Americans under the more than 180 worker protection laws it enforces."

We'll keep you posted in future issues.

JC Safety & Environmental, Inc. is certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE), as a Woman/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (W/DBE) through the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program, and by the United States Small Business Administration as a HUB Zone Small Business

Merging Safety and LEED Initiatives

Professional Safety, the monthly journal of the American Society of Safety Engineers has moved the discussion of the role of safety professionals in sustainability and green technologies to the forefront with an article on LEED and the safety profession. Written by Neil Silins, LEED, AP, the article explores how safety professionals can incorporate this growing initiative into safety and health programs.

The US Green Building Council has developed protocols for green design, building, and day-to-day operations which are known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). LEED certification at varying levels is becoming more sought after by designers, building contractors and owners and some cities like Seattle and Chicago, have set LEED certification goals for city-funded projects.

Silins points out that many safety professionals may not see the connection between their jobs and LEED since the LEED rating systems are not specifically designed for worker safety, but building safety as well as the provision of a safer, cleaner work environment. But, argues Silins, safety professionals should expand their vision of LEED and recognize that LEED simply represents a variation of safety by design and that the LEED systems are a bonus since they provide a safer workplace with no additional effort or energy.

LEED certification, sustainability efforts, and the green building movement represent a new frontier for all of us. Silins is right to urge us all to open up our thinking. We plan to bring you more about this in future newsletters.

The CSB Joins the You Tube Community

In previous issues we have alerted you to Facebook and MySpace pages that have opened up for organizations such as NIOSH. Now the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has established a presence on You Tube. The CSB is using the format to post videos of their final investigations as well as other safety training videos that can be viewed or downloaded and used in other formats.

We at JC Safety have regularly promoted the free DVDs the CSB provides. They are excellent training tools and enhance safety presentations on a variety of topics. This new venture simply provides another means of getting out the word about serious workplace safety disasters, the high quality investigations done by the CSB, and realistic recommendations that governmental agencies can make to improve workplace safety for everyone.

Currently 34 separate videos are available on such topics as the recent combustible dust explosion in Danvers and the hour-long video chronicling the disaster at the BP Texas City oil refinery in March 2005 that killed 15 workers and injured over 100.

Follow the link below to access the current CSB video library.

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_type=&search_query=csb+safety+video&q=0&oq=CSB

J&C Safety Consultants is certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE), as a Woman/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (W/DBE) through the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program, and by the United States Small Business Administration as a HUB Zone Small Business.

Frontline's Fast Facts

Think the hazards of asbestos have been successfully removed from the workplace? Think again. According to the CDC:

- Asbestos-related illnesses have resulted in the loss of more than 7,000 years of potential life.
- A worker diagnosed with an asbestos-related illness between 1968 and 2005 died at an average age of 58.
- In the same time frame, 9,024 deaths were attributed to asbestos exposure, most of whom were white males between ages of 25-64.
- At least 1.3 million workers are potentially exposed every year to asbestos, typically during renovation or demolition activities.
- 2,200 metric tons of asbestos were used in the US in 2006.
- The latency period for asbestos-related illnesses remains between 10 and 40 years.

An abstract of the full report with references can be found at the following link:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwr.html/mm5749a1.htm?s_cid=mm5749a1_e

JC Safety & Environmental, Inc.
321 South Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Phone
412-414-4769

Fax
412-362-5268

E-mail
pam@jcsafety.com

Training the Next Generation of Workers

Safety professionals have long relied on training programs to educate and inform the workforce. These programs provide a forum for delivering information on how to perform hazardous job tasks safely. When integrated into a robust occupational safety and health program, safety training can make a major impact on reducing incidents in the workplace. Boring classroom-style training programs have long been the bane of most workers, but the current generation of workers who have grown up on interactive video technology find this type of program even more so. Yet, most video training programs are poorly designed and just as tedious. The result – no one gets the vital information they need.

The good news is that the current generation of video training programs uses newer technologies and platforms to create a product that just might do the trick. These programs are based loosely on the flight simulator technology long used to successfully train pilots. Some of the newest products on the market are available on CD-ROM formats and require only a computer with a mouse to be operable. More realistic components like steering wheels require only a USB connection.

These products reduce the risks of learning how to operate potentially dangerous equipment by allowing mistakes to be made on a computer, not on the live equipment. Corrections can occur right on the spot and help the trainer can assure the trainee is ready for a real-world practice session.

With the huge turnover of older workers expected to take place in the next 10-15 years, replacement workers will most certainly be younger and less experienced than their counterparts. They will also be more in tune with the technologies being marketed now and are likely to be more receptive to learning in a format that is familiar to them.

While newer technology-based training programs can never replace the value of live person-to-person training, they do provide safety professionals with another tool for the box and are likely to increase in availability and affordability in the coming years.

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. The US Army Corps of Engineers has long been known for their commitment to safety and the quality of its Safety and Health Requirements Manual. A revised edition of this document is available to be downloaded for free. Your safety program can be enhanced by looking at how the COE deals with major safety issues. Just be aware that the document runs 1500 pages!!! <http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/pages/home.aspx>
2. Educate yourself and your workforce on the prevention of latex allergies. The AIHA and DBIS, as syndicated news service, have co-produced a free video that highlights the recent FDA approval of Yulex as an alternative to latex gloves. www.ivanhoe.com/science/story/2008/12/511a.html

J&C Safety Consultants is certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE), as a Woman/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (W/DBE) through the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program, and by the United States Small Business Administration as a HUB Zone Small Business