



NTS-AIHA News
March 2006
Volume 9, Issue 2

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Programs: Chair- Mike Larranaga
Community: Chair-Stevan Pierce
Science Fairs-Bill Vining
Newsletter-Barbara Wilds
Website-Kay Hawkins
Membership: Chair-Mike Collins

-----Newsletter Sponsors-----

-----Section Summary-----

North Texas Section - AIHA
P.O. Box 610925
Dallas, Texas 75261

Founded 1952
71 Year 2005 Members
22 Year 2006 members

Check out our Web Page at:
<http://www.aiha.org/localsections/html/NTS>

North Texas Section American Industrial Hygiene Association

President - Don Hudnall (Ph: 817.280.2832 – dhudnall@bellhelicopter.textron.com)
 President Elect – Mike Larranaga (Ph: 214-855-0222 – michael_larranaga@yahoo.com)
 Treasurer – Erika Erikson (Ph: 214-692-0009 – erikson@guidaslavichflores.com)
 Secretary - Gerry Walsh (Ph: 871.280.2237 Fax: 817.278.2237 - gw Walsh@bellhelicopter.textron.com)
 Director - Stevan Pierce (Ph: 817.465.2822 Fax: 817.465.1009 – stevanp_2000@yahoo.com)
 Director – Bill Bird (Ph: 214-767-3577 – wbird@psc.gov)
 Director - Mike Collins (Ph: 972.518.6562 Fax: 972.753.3485 – michael.collins@abbott.com)
 Past President - Shawn Southern (Ph: 972.578.7663 - shawnsouthern@comcast.net)

President's Message

by Don Hudnall



There is a lot happening with the NTS-AIHA lately. I hope you have been keeping track. Here

are some of the highlights.

- Get your officer nominations in NOW. We must vote on new officers by the end of March. We only have a couple of nominations so the field is wide open. Open positions are Pres-Elect, Secretary and Director. Feel free to nominate yourself. Just contact any of the officers and let them know. Ballots will be sent via email by the end of this month.
- M.Larranaga and S.Pierce have been discussing the potential for a ½ day seminar or a full day seminar. **Do you have a preference?** What if we have a 2-hour seminar? **Do you prefer a lunch, dinner or just the seminar?** Let the NTS-AIHA know your preference by responding to this email or by emailing any of the officers. They are also researching the possibility of joint seminars with other local sections so we really need your input.
- Bill Vining once again has coordinated the NTS-AIHA participation in the Fort Worth & Dallas Science Fairs. Thank you so much Bill. Bill has lead this effort for as long as I can remember and

when I asked Bill how long he has been doing it...well...its been so long even he can't remember. Thanks so very, very much Bill for coordinating our involvement for so many years.

- The NTS-AIHA hosted the latest AIHA teleweb. Did you know that we host a LOT of telewebs. M.Larranaga recently attended the AIHA Leadership Workshop where he accepted an award for the NTS-AIHA for hosting the most telewebs. We tied with the Manitoba local section. That's just goes to show you how active the NTS-AIHA is for hosting telewebs.
- I have been participating in AIHA's Local Sections Council Project. We are having a meeting at the AIHCe to summarize our findings and make specific recommendations on what is needed to help the local sections.

I hope that you get the impression that although we are not having monthly sit-down lunch meetings as we did so long ago, we are still very active. Please help us stay active and nominate yourself for an officer position. We welcome new ideas and encourage you to be active in your local section. ☺

Seminar Preference

- 2-Hour Seminar (Lunch)
- 2-Hour Seminar (Dinner)
- ½ Day Seminar
- Full Day Seminar

E-mail Mike Larranaga at mailto:michael_larranaga@yahoo.com and let him know your preference.

Treasurer's Report

01/01/2006 Through 1/29/2006

INFLOWS		\$
Dues	330.00	
Teleweb Seminars (1)	130.00	
TOTAL INFLOWS	460.00	
OUTFLOWS		\$
Science Fair	110.00	
Awards/Banquet	265.00	
Teleweb (1)	375.00	
TOTAL OUTFLOWS		
OVERALL TOTALS		\$
Annual Total	85.00	
Checkbook Balance	5,180.20	
Certificate of Deposit	5,278.74	
OVERALL TOTAL	10,458.94	

Nominations Still Needed for 2006 NTS-AIHA Officer Elections

Officer elections will be held at the end of this month. Those offices that are coming up for re-election are:

- ❑ **President-Elect: 1-year term**
(After 1 year, moves into President then Past-President position. Must be NTS-AIHA & AIHA national member.)
- ❑ **Secretary: 2-year term**
(Must be NTS-AIHA & AIHA national member.)
- ❑ **Director: 3-year term**
(Only needs to be a NTS-AIHA member)

If you are interested in any of these positions or know of someone else who might be interested, e-mail your nominations to Gerry Walsh, NTS-AIHA Secretary at <mailto:gwalsh@bellhelicopter.textro.com>. ☒

OSHA's Hexavalent Chromium Final Standard

On February 28, 2006, OSHA published its final rule for occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium.

(The following summary was provided by National AIHA)

What Does the Standard Do? Reduces Worker Exposure to Cr(VI)

The new standard provides greater protection against significant health effects, such as lung cancer, nasal septum ulcerations and perforations, and dermatitis by lowering the permissible exposure limit (PEL) from 52 micrograms of Cr(VI) per cubic meter of air (52 µg/m³) to 5 µg/m³ for all sectors.

Practical and Effective Requirements

The new standard requires covered industries to achieve the PEL through engineering and work practice controls to the extent that is technologically feasible. Additional provisions cover exposure determinations, respiratory protection, protective work clothing and equipment, medical surveillance and communication of hazards.

Supplemental Provision for Aerospace Painting

The new standard recognizes that, given available technology, the lowest level employers involved in aerospace painting operations of whole aircraft or large aircraft parts can reach through feasible engineering and work practice controls is 25 µg/m³. For these types of aerospace painting, OSHA requires the use of engineering and work practice controls to reduce exposures to 25 µg/m³, and allows the supplemental use of respirators to be used to achieve the PEL.

Protecting Workers Most at Risk

The new standard will focus protections on workers facing

heightened health risks from airborne exposures. An exemption is provided for employers who can demonstrate that Cr(VI) exposures under any anticipated working conditions will not exceed 0.5 µg/m³.

Reasonable Transition Time

Given the significant PEL reduction required by the new standard, OSHA is providing a reasonable transition period for employers to implement the technologies and practices needed for compliance.

Effective date of the standard: 90 days from publication.

This period is intended to allow affected employers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the standard.

Start-up date for all provisions, except engineering controls: 180 days from the effective date (one year for employers with fewer than 20 employees).

This period is designed to allow employers sufficient time to complete initial exposure assessments, obtain appropriate work clothing and equipment, and comply with other provisions of the standard.

Start-up date for engineering controls: four years from the effective date for all employers.

This period allows affected employers sufficient time to design, obtain, and install the necessary control equipment.

What Are the Major Differences Between the Proposed and Final Standards?

Permissible Exposure Limit

Proposed: A PEL of 1 µg/m³ was proposed.

Final: Based on the rulemaking record, OSHA determined that a PEL of 5 µg/m³ is the lowest level that is technologically and economically feasible for industries impacted by this standard.

Portland Cement Exclusion

Proposed: OSHA proposed to exclude exposures to portland cement in the construction industry because of data indicating that airborne exposures to Cr(VI) in construction activities involving portland cement were very low and posed little lung cancer risk. Risks from dermal exposure could be addressed through existing OSHA standards.

Final: OSHA expanded the exclusion for portland cement to general industry and shipyards, as well, because new data submitted during the public comment period indicated that airborne exposures to Cr(IV) from portland cement in these industries are comparable to exposures in construction.

Scope Exemption

Proposed: No proposed exemption.

Final: OSHA determined that there are certain work operations that may have low airborne Cr(VI) exposure levels comparable to those generated by portland cement and added an exemption for employers who can demonstrate that under no expected conditions will concentrations be above 0.5 µg/m³.

Special Provision for Aerospace Painting

Proposed: OSHA proposed that all industries covered by the standard achieve the PEL through the use of engineering and work practice controls to the extent feasible.

Final: OSHA determined that it would not be technologically feasible to reduce exposures to the PEL through engineering and work practice controls when whole aircraft or large aircraft parts are being painted. Therefore, employers are only required to use engineering and work practice controls to reduce exposures to 25 µg/m³ and must then use respiratory protection to meet the PEL.

NOTICE

Terry Gratton, DrPH, of the University of North Texas School of Public Health is seeking individuals and companies who have worked with Xylene and/or Toluene for at least five years to conduct audiology testing to determine if hearing loss may be associated with exposure to Toluene/Xylene. This research is being conducted with a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Any companies and/or individuals that are willing to participate in the study can respond to Dr. Terry Gratton at 817-735-5140 or <mailto:tgratton@hsc.unt.edu>

Please contact Dr. Gratton if you can help with this study.

Exposure Determination

Proposed: In the proposal, OSHA did not include exposure determination provisions for construction or shipyards because of the practical difficulties in characterizing exposures in these work settings.

Final: The final standard covering general industry, construction, and shipyards all have identical provisions for exposure determination. The standard also adds a performance-oriented option in all industry sectors to increase employers' flexibility in making exposure determinations.

Medical Surveillance

Proposed: OSHA proposed that medical surveillance be offered to employees with signs and symptoms of Cr(VI)-related health effects, exposures in emergencies, or exposures for 30 or more days above the PEL.

Final: The standard takes into account the new PEL and changed the exposure-based trigger to 30 or more days above the action level (one-half the PEL). In addition, the

standard adds this trigger to the construction and shipyard standards. ⊗

Research: Combustion-derived Nanoparticles Potentially Cause Host Of Ailments

The nose, usually the first line of defense against inhaled airborne particles that could damage the lungs, may itself be susceptible to the dangers of extremely small particles, called nanoparticles (NPs), researchers announced on Feb. 17.

According to research presented by Michigan State University (MSU) researchers at a seminar at the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science conference titled "Nanotechnology 2006: Toxicology of Nanoparticles," combustion-derived nanoparticles (CDNPs), have the ability to collect in the nasal airways, potentially causing a number of ailments, including rhinitis, inflammation of the mucous membranes.

CDNPs are byproducts of coal-fired power plants, waste incinerators and diesel-powered vehicles. They are also found in the production of carbon black, an elemental carbon that is widely used in rubber tires, gaskets, and in pigments for paints, plastics and inks.

"This is concerning because carbon black can be found practically anywhere," said Jack Harkema, a university distinguished professor of pathobiology and diagnostic investigation at MSU, who conducted the research with colleagues from the University of Rochester. "It's found in ink jet printers, car tires, pretty much anything that is black."

However, our primary concern is the potential adverse health effects to people who manufacture large

amounts of these CDNPs and are daily exposed to these nanoparticles."

Most of the toxicology studies of inhaled nanoparticles have focused on its harmful effects on the lung. However, nasal toxicity of nanoparticles has not been previously examined, the researchers said.

"This study was the first to show that inhaled nanoparticless of any sort can cause nasal pathology such as rhinitis, epithelial cell injury, and remodeling of the nasal mucous membranes that may compromise its function for smell and for defending the lung from harmful airborne agents," Harkema said.

In the laboratory, carbon black NPs are often used as surrogates for other CDNPs, like those found in diesel exhaust, to identify which physical or chemical features of extremely small particles are most responsible for their toxic effects to cells and tissues in the nose and lungs. This knowledge is important for setting occupational and environmental exposure limits to maintain air quality and protect human health.

The fact that the nasal passages could be susceptible to the dangers of such nanoparticles is alarming because the nose, in addition to its smelling duties, serves to not only humidify and warm inhaled air, but also filter it, the researchers said.

"It basically acts as a scrubbing tower, removing inhaled gases, vapors and small airborne particles -- including nanoparticles -- that may be harmful to the lung," he said. "It turns out, nasal airways may also be targets of toxicity caused by inhaled nanoparticles."

To look into the potential toxicity of these carbon black nanoparticles, Harkema and colleagues exposed laboratory rodents to high levels of the material. They found that rats developed a number of lesions on the surface epithelium, or the lining, of

the nasal airways, as well as rhinitis, an inflammation of the mucous membranes of the nasal airways. They also found that the smaller the size of the NPs the more severe the toxic injury to the noses of these exposed rats.

Mice had similar but less severe rhinitis and epithelial lesions, while hamsters did not develop rhinitis at all and only minimal alterations to the nasal epithelium. Why one rodent species is more susceptible to nasal injury than another is not yet known.

Although the effects of inhaled nanoparticles on humans have yet to be determined, "these initial findings in laboratory rodents suggest that our nose, like our lungs, is a potential target organ for toxicity of inhaled NPs," Harkema said. ⊗

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Major organizations and companies are joining with the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) to increase public awareness of the importance of workplace safety and health during the April 30 – May 6, 2006 North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH, www.asse.org/naosh06).

The national kick-off will take place Monday, May 1, 2006 in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Department of Labor while other events will take place countrywide.

"We are all working together to reduce death, injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Currently more than 5,000 people die on the job each year and four million more suffer from on-the-job illnesses and injuries. The addition of these top organizations increases our reach in getting the facts out on the importance of safety

and health in the workplace," ASSE President Jack Dobson, Jr., CSP, said. " The workplace fatality rates are not just numbers. They are people. They are coworkers and colleagues, friends and family. Every injury avoided and every fatality prevented means one more person returns home to their family at the end of the day. "

NAOSH Week is another way ASSE, CSSE and OSHA work to increase the understanding of the benefits of investing in occupational safety and health; to raise awareness of the role and contribution of safety and health practitioners; and, to reduce workplace injuries and illness by encouraging new workplace safety and health initiatives. The NAOSH Week theme is 'Prevention is the Cure.' To find out more, go to <http://www.asse.org/naosh>. ⊗

Remember - Dues are Due
NTS-AIHA dues are due for another year.
Annual NTS-AIHA dues are still only \$15/year.
To pay dues, please complete the membership form on page 6 and submit with payment as indicated. If you have any questions on your membership please contact Barbara Wilds at 817-280-5857 or <mailto:bwilds@bellhelicopter.textron.com>.

Announcement
NTS-AIHA wins award and ties with the Manitoba AIHA section for hosting the most AIHA Telewebs!!

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars and Conferences

AIHA Teleweb – Cost Effective Ergonomics

Date: April 4, 2006

Location: TBD

Contact: <mailto:dhdnall@bellhelicopter.textron.com>

AIHCe 2006 / Ventilation 2006

Date: May 13 – 18, 2006

Location: McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois

Contact: <http://www.aiha.org/aihce06/aihce.htm>

1st American Conference on Human Vibration

Date: June 5-7, 2006

Location: Morgantown, WV

Contact: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/conferences/Vibration/index.htm>

ASSE Annual Conference and Exposition

Date: June 11 – 14, 2006

Location: Seattle, Washington

Contact: <http://www.asse.org>

ASSE Region III PDC

Date: August 6, 2006

Location: TBA

Contact: TBA

PCIH 2006

Date: September 16 – 19, 2006

Location: San Jose, California

Contact: <http://www.aiha.org/TheAcademy/html/pci.h.htm>

National Safety Council Congress and Expo

Date: November 3 – 10, 2006

Location: San Diego, California

Contact: <http://www.nsc.org>

Year 2006 Membership

NTS-AIHA Membership Benefits Include

- Subsidized meetings and member discounts.
- \$10 savings on each issue of newsletter sponsorship. \$15/issue for non-members. \$5/issue for members
- NTS-AIHA Membership Directory sent in December and upon request. Members only.
- Immediate notification of local job opportunities for members on email distribution list. .
- NTS-AIHA Voting Rights.

Dues are only \$15 / year

Thank you for taking the time to complete the following information even if you are renewing your membership.

NTS-AIHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please print)

Name: _____
 Certification: _____
 Title: _____
 Employer: _____

Business address: _____ Home address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

(NOTE: Please provide an e-mail address so that the newsletter can be e-mailed to you. Hardcopies will no longer be mailed.)

In membership directory, list my: (check one) Business: ____ Home: ____

Do you wish to receive immediate notification of job opportunities via email: (check one) No: ____ Local I.H. Jobs: ____ All I.H Jobs rec'd: ____

Are you a national member: Yes: ____ No: ____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dues: \$15.00 per year.....Make checks payable to NTS-AIHA
 Send this form and payment to:
North Texas Section – American Industrial Hygiene Association
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 Federal Tax ID 31-1254249