

Arkansas Local Section American Industrial Hygiene Association



Arkansas IH News Gems

Volume 1, Issue 3

President's Message

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer because it is almost gone. One nice thing about Arkansas is enjoying the change of seasons.

I am a member of the AIHA Local Section Task Force. The task force has worked with National AIHA to identify ways to support the local sections, and I wanted to share the progress on the current projects. First, many members have requested that they be able to pay local section dues with their National AIHA membership dues. This has been approved and will be an option for your AIHA registration for 2008. A second project is finding a web-based membership management system to support the local sections. This would enhance communications and allow easier management of our events and activities. Features include membership renewals, event registration, career centers, newsletters, calendars, bulletin boards, and survey functions. The vendor we selected is called Memberclicks and the Task Force has submitted a request for National AIHA (on the agenda for next Board Meeting) to pay the initial set-up fees for Memberclicks. If local sections wish to join, they would only be required to pay a monthly service fee. A third project is to provide Local Section Best Practices. Best Practice topics include Professional Development Conferences, Web-Based training, Career Days, Mentoring Programs, Local Section Awards, Community Service Ideas, and Engaging all Members. The new Best Practices should be available on the AIHA Web site in a couple of months.

It is that time of year again where we elect new officers. If you are interested or want to nominate someone for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or simply want to know more about office responsibilities contact me at forrest.adams@tyson.com.

Please check out the newsletter for details of upcoming events which include the September 27th meeting and November 2nd Anniversary Party!

-Forrest Adams



September 2007

Events:

- Aug through Oct — Arkansas Department of Labor Regional Safety & Health Conferences (Details on page 2)
- September 27—AIHA Local Section Meeting in North Little Rock at CTEH® (Details on Page 6)
- October 20-23—PCIH 2007 in Louisville, KY (Page 2)
- November 2nd—Local Section 30th Anniversary Party (Details TBA)

If you would like your event listed in the newsletter please email me at:

pbarton@cteh.com

Dec. 4 Public Hearing on OSHA's Controversial PPE Proposal

-Ben Chandler

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced in the Aug. 31 Federal Register, it will hold an informal public hearing regarding OSHA's plan to update its personal protective equipment (PPE) design standards. The hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Dec. 4, 2007, at the Department of Labor's Frances Perkins Building in Washington, D.C.

"OSHA is working to modernize its standards by updating references to outdated consensus standards,"

said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Edwin G. Foulke Jr. "Holding this hearing will allow interested parties the opportunity to provide direct input on these important changes."

OSHA is proposing to revise the PPE sections of its general industry, shipyard employment, longshoring, and marine terminals standards regarding the use of eye and face protective devices and head and foot protection. The proposal would apply to PPE standards that now must meet specific

ANSI standards. OSHA wants to remove the references to ANSI standards, replacing them with a requirement to use PPE constructed in accordance with good design standards and adding criteria for determining what constitutes a good design standard, in an acknowledgement that regular updates are too challenging.

A notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the May 17, 2007, Federal Register and the public was given until July 16, 2007, to submit comments.

'07 Professional Conference of Industrial Hygiene



The Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene (PCIH) is the conference to attend if you are an OEHS professional looking to stay abreast of current trends, find solutions to everyday issues, and network with seasoned professionals.

Sponsored by the American Industrial Hygiene Association's Academy of Industrial Hygiene, PCIH brings together professionals from various specialties to provide a unique opportunity to meet with and learn from some of the best minds in the fields of occupational and environmental health and safety.

The 22nd annual PCIH will be held in Louisville, Kentucky October 20-23. In addition, there is a pre-conference symposium offered on October 18-19 titled "Bringing Toxicology to Global Issues in Occupational and Environmental Public Health".

<http://www.aiha.org/TheAcademy/html/pcih.htm>

2007 Regional Safety and Health Seminars

The last issue of the Arkansas IH News Gems newsletter informed you of several regional safety seminars that the Arkansas Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission are co-sponsoring across the state this year.

The year is not over yet and there is

still time for a few more seminars. Two Workers' Safety Conferences will be in Jonesboro and Batesville this month.

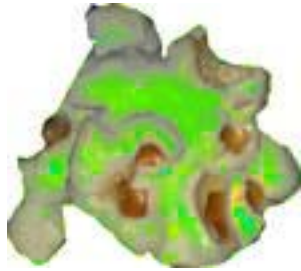
The conference in Jonesboro will be held on September 19th and the one in Batesville will be on September 25th. A brochure for the Jonesboro conference is included at the end of the newslet-

ter. The Batesville brochure is not available yet, but it will be held at the University of Arkansas Community College Auditorium in Batesville.

Questions? Contact Judy Harwell at 501-682-9092 for information concerning the Private Sector Conferences.

Toxic Popcorn???

-Paul S. Barton



I was watching ABC's Good Morning America a few weeks ago and saw that they were interviewing an industrial hygienist about the dangers of microwave popcorn butter. As you may be already aware, the butter flavoring, diacetyl, has been implicated in the last few years as a possible cause of a lung disease known as bronchiolitis obliterans in popcorn plant workers. However, recently a lung specialist from Denver's National Jewish Medical and Research Center has notified federal agencies that she may have identified the first known case of a man who ate popcorn at home and had the same disease as the popcorn plant workers (He ate two bags of popcorn a day for twenty years). As a result of this

recent case, Conagra, the world's largest supplier of the 3 billion bags of microwave popcorn sold each year, said that it will eliminate the use of diacetyl from its Act II and Orville Redenbacher products.

I personally love microwave popcorn with its diacetyl goodness. I doubt, as an average consumer, that I am at risk of developing popcorn lung. However, if the popcorn manufacturers are able to substitute a safer alternative I'd be willing to try give it a try.

DIACETYL IN FOOD

Diacetyl is a naturally occurring substance found in many dairy products and some wine. It was first produced synthetically in Europe and is added to thousands of foods throughout the world to increase or enrich butter flavoring. It is found in microwave popcorn, potato chips, baked goods and candies, frozen food, artificial butter, cooking oils, beer, dog food, and other items.

HOW DIACETYL HARMS PEOPLE

Worker hazards: In manufacturing plants, it's been linked to bronchiolitis obliterans -- irreversible obstructive lung diseases -- for which lung transplants are often the only way to survive. Lawsuits against diacetyl manufacturers by hundreds of workers in popcorn, flavoring and other food plants claiming injury from breathing diacetyl have led to jury awards and settlements of more than \$20 million.

FYI: CCHST, OHST, CHST, STS, CLCS (I love acronyms!)

Are you aware that there are certifications in safety and health for people working in technician and technologist positions? If you have people in your organization who do not qualify for the CIH or CSP, but are interested in a professional credential, consider investigating the certifications offered by CCHST.

The Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists is a joint ABIH/BCSP venture. Beginning in 1985, the Occupational

Health and Safety Technologist (OHST) was offered, followed by the Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) in 1994 and the Safety Trained Supervisor (STS) in Construction in 1995.

The STS program has been expanded to include General Industry and the Petrochemical sector. Over the past few years, the insurance industry has worked with CCHST to find a way to incorporate the OHST certification into the insurance loss control profession. The result is the

new Certified Loss Control Specialist.

These certification programs offer recognition among safety and health practitioners, provide a benchmark for employers, increase employee confidence in occupational health and safety programs, help improve company profitability through reduced incidents and losses and can enhance the company image. If you know of practitioners who could benefit from these certifications, please help direct them to CCHST at

<http://www.cchest.org>

Ebola – It's Back **Congo Confirms Deadly Ebola Outbreak**

(From your “roving reporter” Deborah Moore)

Some of this material is taken from the MSN & AP story in the following location:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20712424>

Ebola has again reared its ugly head in the African Congo. Ebola (hemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal disease in humans and other primates that has appeared sporadically as listed below:

- 1976, Zaire, 318 people killed
- 1995, Kikwit, 245 people killed
- 2007, Mwaka 167 dead so far, 400 ill so far.

The scary part about Ebola is that the disease in humans has a 90% fatality rate and can kill within 24 hours of contact. The person often turns to a sort of “blood soup” inside, when all organs liquefy, and the person bleeds from all body openings including eyes, nose, mouth, anally, urine, etc. It is in-

deed a horrible death. Plus, it is extremely contagious.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with the blood or secretions of an infected person, or objects that have been contaminated with infected secretions. It is not known where the initial infection came from, though medical researchers say it is likely from contact with an infected animal.

Moore's Note: Primates can also carry and suffer from Ebola, in fact they may be a vector of the disease. To add to the mix, it was also announced just last month that a small, African bat was a carrier of one of the Marburg viruses (a close relative of Ebola). So, this is perhaps where the virus “hides” when not active.

Another problem is that the WHO (World Health Organization) stated that some of the ill patients have shigella instead of hemorrhagic fever (from Ebola virus). Shigella responds positively to antibiotics – Ebola is not affected by antibiotics. Some of the patients are getting better when given antibiotics. However, symptoms of the two diseases are similar. Both shigella patients and Ebola patients are kept in the same mud hut facilities.

If disease control interests you, I recommend a movie that's out on DVD now titled “**The Painted Veil**”. It's about a cholera epidemic in Communist China in the 30's and it stars Edward Norton & Naomi Watts. It was one of the best movies of 2006. Very graphic and powerful and demonstrates hygiene efforts in the early years. It is based on a novel by Somerset.

You're in a Heap of Trouble Boy!

-Deborah Moore

How much trouble do you think a company could get into if they were in the following situation?

- A set a multiple fatalities occurred on their job site; and
- During the fatality investigation, more fatalities occurred, and
- One of the fatalities was an MSHA inspector; and
- In addition to nine fatalities (six of the bodies will probably never be recovered) several people were hospitalized; and
- The whole nation was watching this transpire, Reporters from all major networks were camped the company's doorstep for weeks; This includes play-by-play analyses by lawyers and job safety and health professionals from around the nation; and

- Most of your transgressions were captured on film and soundtrack. Millions watched on TV; and

The governor of your state has called for an independent investigation. The Secretary of Labor has called for a special investigation. Congress is thinking about calling an Congressional investigation.

All of this and more happened last month in the Utah Crandall Canyon mining disaster. Most of us followed the tragic story in the news. You can read about it as well on MSHA's website:

<http://www.msha.gov/Genwal/CrandallCanyon.asp>

Also, of interest is the MSHA fatality counter on their opening webpage in the left hand column, about half-way

down the page: <http://www.msha.gov/>

As of 9/11/07, we have had 47 fatalities in the US in mining.

Mining is not just dangerous here in the US but worldwide. This is especially true in China where 4,746 workers were killed last year. China averaged 13 deaths a day in their mines in 2006. And, mining accidents don't just happen in China, they happen in Russia, Africa, and South American too.

As our nation's attention is focused on the Utah mine, 69 miners were pulled alive out of a mine in China after being buried for 3 days.

So far a total of 2163 coal miners have been killed in 2007 in Chinese mines. <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asia.pc...eut/index.html>

New Bio-Hazard Laboratory Planned by DHS

-Deborah Moore

Seems like our good buddies at the Department of Homeland Security are planning to move a heavy duty biohazard facility from offshore to mainland USA. In a story covered by Reuters, the **Plum Island Animal Disease Research Facility** has operated on an island for over 50 years. Needing a new lab constructed, the Department of Homeland Security decided this kind of research (highly contagious animal diseases, some that can be spread to humans) should be done in one of the following cities:

- Manhattan, Kansas
- Flora, Mississippi
- San Antonio, Texas
- Athens, Georgia
- Butner, North Carolina.

Homeland Security said the "winning site" will be announced in fall 2008.

Some of the diseases the facility has (or could) work on are foot-and-mouth disease and swine fever, along with two diseases that can spread to humans from animals, Rift Valley Fever and Japanese encephalitis.

One small problem though - congress has to approve such research being conducted on the US mainland.

Moore's notes: Sure this will mean a boost to the local economy. **Plus, it will provide jobs to industrial hygienists.** But, let's look at why the Plum Island facility was on an island to begin with. Viruses are sneaky little beasts. A bio-hazard lab, if run correctly would be safe. I trust the CDC. After the Katrina de-

bacle, I need more info on Homeland Security's part in this thing.

Let me give you a real life example of what can go wrong. It just happened in August, 07, in England.

They recently had an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in cattle. They had a similar outbreak in 2001. Foot (or hoof) & mouth is contagious to cloven hoof animals (cows, sheep, pigs). They had to destroy herds of cows in the area of affected farms. When an outbreak of this disease occurred in England in 2001, two thousand cases were found – but 3 ½ million animals had to be destroyed.

Now, this latest outbreak of foot & mouth has resulted in the slaughter of about 600 animals in a 30 mile radius around affected farms. Also, restrictions on meat exports cost the industry about \$3.5 million a day since the first case was confirmed. Meat products and milk were affected.

They finally traced the strain of the virus present in the sick animals to a strain of virus used in a nearby research lab. After an exhaustive search of the lab, they found the lab sewage drain pipe had sprung a leak and released the virus particles into the ecosystem. A tree root was blamed for cracking the sewage pipe. Contractors driving across the lines were spreading the virus particles on their truck tires. So, here's what can go wrong when a research lab dealing with some nasty viruses is located too close to host animals or high population areas and the lab is not maintained properly. Not only are animal's and people's lives at risk, but the country's economy is at risk as well.

Note from the editor:

I have to admit that I like crude humor. Here is a cartoon from Deborah that would lighten up those boring confined space training presentations.



Reminders and Notices

Become a member of the AIHA-AR Yahoo! Group
<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AIHA-AR/>



The purpose of the AIHA-AR Group is to facilitate, improve, and retain electronic communications between members of the Arkansas local section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). Members may issue group e-mails by simply sending the message to the Group instead of individually maintaining a current list of members' e-mail addresses.

To subscribe to AIHA-AR, send a blank (subject line and message) e-mail message to:

AIHA-AR-scribe@YahooGroups.com

Local Section Meeting



Our next local section meeting is scheduled for September 27th from 12:00 to 1:30. We will be meeting at the offices of Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health (CTEH). The address is 5120 North Shore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118. Here is a web address for a map: <http://tinyurl.com/22989x> We will have guest speakers Don Cooper with DHS Inspections and Enforcement Branch from Dallas and Katherine Crowley a DHS Protective Security Advisor from Arkansas. They will be speaking about the new DHS Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. Lunch will be provided. Donations to cover the cost of lunch are appreciated.

30th Birthday!!!



Did you realize that this November will be the 30th birthday of the local section? A party has been scheduled for November 2nd. Details will be announced later. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Appeal for Submissions

Putting together a newsletter while balancing the demands of work and family is difficult. In an effort to produce the best and most useful newsletter I am requesting the help of everyone. If you have news, announcements, or just want to share something with everyone please email me at pbarton@cteh.com or call me at 501-240-6722. This newsletter will be published quarterly with the next issue published in late December. If you have suggestions drop me a line. *-Paul Barton*

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We're on the web:
<http://www.AIHA-AR.org>



What Is AIHA?

The American Industrial Hygiene Association is one of the largest international associations serving the needs of occupational and environmental health professionals practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions, and independent organizations. We:

- are devoted to achieving and maintaining the highest professional standards for our members;
- work in conjunction with the American Board of Industrial Hygiene to promote certification of industrial hygienists;
- administer comprehensive education programs that keep occupational and environmental health and safety professionals current in the field of industrial hygiene;
- operate several highly-recognized laboratory accreditation programs, based on the highest international standards. These programs help ensure the quality of the data used in making critical worker protection decisions.

Founded in 1939, AIHA is a nonprofit organization with more than 75 local sections. The Arkansas Local Section of the AIHA was formed in 1977. Any member of the AIHA, residing within the geographic boundaries of the Arkansas Local Section may become a member of the Local Section. For more information contact forrest.adams@tyson.com