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**Release No. SPR-06-406-01**

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## **Reaching New Heights at AIHce 2006 in Chicago, Illinois**

*7,000 OEHS professionals will gather to learn, network, and explore products and services*

FAIRFAX, VA (April 6, 2006) — Nearly 7,000 industrial hygienists and occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professionals are expected to attend the 67<sup>th</sup> annual American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHce), which continues its long history as the primary source for learning and networking for the occupational health and safety profession.

From May 13–18 at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois, attendees will find the latest science-based solutions for protecting workers and their health and gain practical advice on business-related issues that industrial hygienists and health and safety professionals face every day. Hundreds of hands-on educational opportunities to earn up to 6.5 certification maintenance points will include 75 weekend professional development courses (PDCs), 40 educational tracks, 120 technical sessions, podium sessions, roundtables, environmental health and safety (EHS) crossover programs, technical tours, and poster sessions.

AIHce has added a host of new, innovative programming to the 2006 conference schedule, including co-locating with the 8<sup>th</sup> International VENT conference, “Practical Applications of Ventilation for Emission and Exposure Control.” All AIHce attendees will be able to attend VENT education sessions at no extra cost.

AIHce will also introduce the latest developments in the exciting new area of nanotechnology, cover the emerging threat of infectious diseases, and debut the first-ever weekday Science Symposium. Back by popular demand, this year’s conference also includes a series of “Ask the Expert” Q&A-based sessions, Brown Bag Lunch Discussions, and an Emerging Issues Forum.

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) cosponsor AIHce.

### **Weekend Program**

Prior to the beginning of the main conference program, attendees can take advantage of two days featuring 75 in-depth PDCs. Full- and half-day courses are available, with up-to-the-minute topics such as avian flu to health and safety issues related to illicit drug laboratories. In addition, there are late-breaking sessions on the response to and recovery from the devastating 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. Other educational programming

includes topics like ANSI/AIHA Standard Z10-2005 to ergonomics, emergency response, cancer and the work environment, and mold.

Other educational opportunities available include a three-day Certified Safety Professional (CSP) Exam Prep Course, to be held May 12–14; “Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers,” part of AIHA’s two-course Management Certificate Program, on May 13–14; and “Action Tools for Successful OEHS Management and Leadership,” also part of AIHA’s two-course Management Certificate Program, on May 13–14.

### **Keynote Speakers**

Following the weekend educational program, Donald A. Henderson, M.D., MPH, resident fellow at the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, will kick off AIHce’s 2006 theme “Reaching New Heights” as the opening general session keynote speaker on Monday, May 15. Henderson will discuss two of the newer workplace hazards challenging OEHS professionals: the effects of global terrorism and emerging diseases.

The Tuesday, May 16, general session will address the value of EHS in a global business. Keynote speaker Raj L. Gupta, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of the Rohm and Haas Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, believes the only way to predict the future is to create opportunities over which you have control and to invite others to participate with you.

The keynote speaker for the Wednesday, May 17, general session is Jonathan L. Snare, deputy assistant secretary of labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Snare heads OSHA and its staff of more than 2,200 safety and health professionals and support personnel. Edwin G. Foulke Jr. was nominated as assistant secretary of labor for OSHA. Foulke was confirmed as the assistant secretary of labor for OSHA on March 13, 2006. At printing time, AIHA had not yet received confirmation that Foulke would be presenting. OSHA will address their plans for the future and will also discuss current initiatives.

With 95 percent of their time devoted to Q&A, the “Ask the Expert” sessions are back by popular demand and will allow attendees to address their concerns in depth. “Ask the Expert” sessions will take place following each keynote speaker, enabling participants to interact with the speakers in a more intimate format. Additional “Ask the Expert” sessions include a Confined Space Program, an update on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) research in nanotechnology, and a discussion on hexavalent chromium.

### **Innovative Educational Opportunities**

Due to the popularity of the 2005 Tech Talks, AIHA is continuing this interactive opportunity but expanding it into a special two-part series of Brown Bag Lunch

Discussions to be held in the exhibit hall. The new and first portion of the series will increase the interactions between NIOSH and AIHA members. NIOSH Industry Sector/Research to Practice (r2p) Exchange will be held on Tuesday, May 16, from 12:30–1:30 p.m. covering topics such as r2p, business case for safety and health, exposure assessment, health care and social assistance, manufacturing sector, public and private services sector, and wholesale/retail trade.

The second portion of the series, the Tech Talks, will be led by AIHA and ACGIH technical committee experts on Wednesday, May 17, from 12:30–1:30 p.m. and will provide small-group roundtable discussions on topics such as biosafety and environmental microbiology, communication and training methods, confined spaces, exposure assessment strategies, ergonomics, gas and vapor detection system, indoor environmental quality, laboratory safety and health, law, nanotechnology, occupational epidemiology, protective clothing and equipment, respiratory protection, risk assessment, stewardship and sustainability, and toxicology.

Nanotechnology is a new, fast-growing field that involves the manufacture of materials with a primary size in the nanometer range. As this technology expands, there is an ever-increasing need for the rapid development of safety and health initiatives to protect workers in this area. The daylong Nanotechnology Symposium on Saturday, May 13, aims to meet that need by covering the topics most essential to make informed decisions to properly protect the workers exposed to nanomaterials.

With the advent of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and avian flu, the all-day Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Symposium on Sunday, May 14, presents several case studies and sessions that explore the important issues revolving around infectious agents and how the indoor environment can contribute to the spread of disease. AIHA brings the 6<sup>th</sup> International IAQ Symposium and its speakers to colleagues in the occupational health and safety profession.

AIHce will feature a first-ever weekday Science Symposium on Monday, May 15. Intended to be the first in an ongoing series, the Science Symposium will discuss the historic role scientific research has played in the field and highlight key areas in which industrial hygiene has benefited from improvements in scientific understanding. With top-level speakers, including John Howard, M.D., director of NIOSH, and Mort Lippmann, PhD, CIH, of New York University's School of Medicine, the symposium will illustrate the dynamic interrelationship between evidence-based practice, which emphasizes the use of scientifically validated procedures and practice-based research.

AIHA will also be providing attendees with the opportunity to engage in proactive discussion regarding OEHS emerging issues. An Emerging Issues Forum will be held on Wednesday, May 17, on topics such as occupational hygiene issues in health care, international standards for respiratory protection, and international health and safety standards. The forum will provide background on each subject and an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on future AIHA activities.

## Experience the Expo

A 300+ booth exposition will feature the health and safety products and services of companies that will offer demonstrations of gas masks and other personal protective equipment, mold testing and remediation technologies and services, hearing protection, lab safety equipment, and much more. Exposition hours are 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m., May 15; 9 a.m.–4 p.m., May 16; and 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m., May 17. Expo-only tickets are available.

A mock clandestine methamphetamine laboratory will be set up in the expo hall to demonstrate the health and safety issues faced by first responders, law enforcement personnel, and OEHS professionals who deal with illegal drug labs and meth-contaminated properties. The lab will be set up as a small room with a realistic display of the equipment and some of the ingredients (nonharmful ingredients only) used in these labs. Several industrial hygienists who are experts on these labs and often help assess contamination and recommend remediation steps will be on hand to conduct short tours and explain the contents of the lab. AIHA will also hold a press conference in the lab for the media on Tuesday, May 16, at 11 a.m.

AIHce is proud to announce the new OEHS Independent Practitioner Tabletop Pavilion. This is an opportunity for independent practitioners/consultants or individuals who work in a very small group practice to market their service at a unique 4-hour display. Attendees may visit this new area of the expo during “non-compete” time on Tuesday, May 16, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Technical tours will be available for attendees interested in a more interactive learning experience. The tours being offered this year are: The Civic Opera House, Wrigley Company R&D Center, Center for Green Technology, The Chicago Tribune Newspaper, Behind the Scenes at the Field Museum, Argonne National Laboratory, AMCA International Testing Laboratory, and the University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital. To register for these tours, please visit the AIHce 2006 website at <http://www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce.htm>.

Detailed conference information and registration is available at <http://www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce.htm>. On-site registration begins Friday, May 12, at 4 p.m. For more information regarding AIHce 2006, please contact AIHA at (703) 849-8888. Members of the media may contact Melissa Hurley at (703) 846-0740 or [mhurley@aiha.org](mailto:mhurley@aiha.org).

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Founded in 1939, the **American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)** is the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. AIHA’s 11,800 members play a crucial role on the front line of worker health and safety every day. Members represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government, and academia. For more information, go to [www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org).