



POTOMAC SECTION NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE POTOMAC SECTION OF THE AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

May 2003

Note: a new URL for our web page: www.aiha.org/LocalSections/html/potche/homepage.htm
or www.aiha.org/potomac.htm

2002-2003 Officers

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President-Elect

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Secretary

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leigh.doptis@verizon.net

Announcements, Postings,
Comments for the Newsletter
should be sent to Leigh Doptis at
leigh.doptis@verizon.net

Notice: There will not be a general Section meeting this 21 May. There will be a turnover meeting of the Executive Committee to install new officers and initiate planning for upcoming section activities through June 2004.

A Message from our Section President:

Now that we've wrapped up our meetings for the spring (the next dinner meeting will be in September) and our new President, Mark Geiger, and President-Elect, Barry Hemler, with their new support staff are getting ready to assume leadership, I'd like to thank you for all the support you've given me during the year as president. It's been a pleasure working with individuals who are so talented and capable. Together we've cooperatively learned about a variety of important IH issues during a very unusual and challenging time for our profession.

This might be a good time to look back and see if you have taken advantage of all the opportunities available through the Potomac Section. Some of you have regularly participated but many others haven't. I'd like to think it's because of the wrong time, or inconvenient location, or some factor other than not having the get-up-and-go. If you've missed something, and many have, now's the time to resolve to become more involved beginning this fall!

Please support our new team, who will need your assistance in many ways to further our profession.

Ken

SECTION NEWS:

Should you desire to support our industrial hygiene profession by participating in the leadership of our local section, please know that changes adopted by the ABIH in 1998 state that elected Board members of local sections receive 0.5 points/year. Please contact Barry or another Board member if you're interested.

Your newly elected Officers for this upcoming 2003-2004 season are:

President: Barry Hemler, Montgomery County Public Schools

Secretary: Arthur Matyushkov, Kynoch Environmental

Treasurer: Anish Ranpuria (for a 2nd term)

Director (1-year): Anita Pustelnik, AKVA, Inc.

Director (2-years): Chris Kase, Quest Diagnostics

Director (2-years): Chris Findlay, MSHA

Your nominations are requested for a Section Award for IH Excellence. The objective is to honor someone recognized locally for their expertise in Industrial Hygiene. The nominations will be considered by the Executive Committee over the summer and presented at the first meeting this Fall. Please submit nominations, by e-mail or letter, to Ken Fischer for this Section award by 6/20/03.

FUTURE POTOMAC SECTION MEETINGS:

Plan on the 3rd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise indicated.

10-15 May, the AIHce 2003 is scheduled at Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas; consequently, there will be no May meeting this year. Perhaps an informal get-together at the Conference—look for other section members and use the message system to contact one another. Perhaps we can have lunch get together. FYI, several of the Section officers will be unable to attend this year, but Anish Ranpuria and Leigh Doptis are planning to attend.

? June-? July, A summer event has not yet been planned. Those interested please contact Ken Fischer.

17 September. It is anticipated that fall dinner meetings will resume on this date.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

Please visit your Section web page and web links for more details on the following events.,

(www.aiha.org/LocalSections/html/potche/homepage.htm),

biosafety@controlofbiohazards.com or

visit <http://www.controlofbiohazards.com>.

10-15 May, AIHce will convene in Dallas, TX, at the Dallas Convention Center.

12-14 May, An International Short Course to be held in Edinburgh, UK on dermal exposure and risk assessment ... for occupational hygienists, occupational physicians and researchers in the field of human exposure assessment. Program and registration form available at www.DERMEX.org or e-mail: DERMEX@iomhq.org.uk

FYI:

CIH Review Course: The course will be each Wednesday from 7:00- 9:30 PM starting May 21 and concluding September 17, 2003. The entire course will cost \$425, each module \$40. CM points will be awarded for each separate module as well as the entire course. The course will be conducted at:

ATC Associates, Inc.
8989 Hermann Drive
Suite 300
Columbia, MD 21045

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
MAY 21 - SEPTEMBER 17, 2003
7:00 - 9:30 PM

Course Director:

Patrick N. Breyse, PhD, Professor and Director, Industrial Hygiene Program, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. For Details: <http://www.jhsph.edu/ERC/CIHbrochure>

For More Information or to Register:

Mary L. Doyle, MPH, RN, COHN-S/CM, Director, ERC Continuing Education Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 410-955-0423, or FAX 410-614-4986 FAX, or visit www.jhsph.edu/erc/ce.

AIHA Distance Learning. Each year OEHS professionals must maintain their many certifications via professional development and continuing education courses, yet each year

many struggle to fit training into their busy schedules and tight budgets.

AIHA's Distance Learning (DL) Courses are an excellent resource that helps you maximize learning opportunities, minimize costs, and doesn't monopolize your time! A special opportunity to "Share the Knowledge" from May 9 thru August 1, 2003 has been announced! The DL Program is offering you a special opportunity to share your Webcourse registration with a colleague or co-worker! This special one time only offer will allow two people to register for the price of one!

Online Masters Degree Programs in Occupational Safety and Health, at

Tulane Univ <http://dl.caeph.tulane.edu/>.

The Center for Applied Environmental Public Health (CAEPH) at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is pleased to announce that applications for the Fall 2003 cohorts of our **On-line Masters** programs in Public Health are now being accepted. Details for the programs are as follows:

The **MSPH in Industrial Hygiene** program provides the education and practical training of degreed scientists and engineers as professional industrial hygienists, including preparation for the certification examination administered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. Study is focused on the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of chemical, biological, and physical health stressors in the workplace and indoor environments.

The MPH in **Occupational Health and Safety Management** program is designed for mid-career occupational health and safety or industrial hygiene professionals, who seek to expand management options. The curriculum provides study in four areas: health and safety principles and issues; data analysis for management decision-making; behavioral aspects of the workplace; and management.

Tuition is \$610/credit hour, plus additional fees for books, course materials and technical support. Applications for the programs are being accepted now, and those received by the end of May will have priority. Space is limited, and interested applicants are encouraged to apply early. For more information, visit our website at <http://dl.caeph.tulane.edu/>, call (800) 862-2122, or send an email to DLinfo@tulane.edu. More information on these degree programs are available on the "Announcement" page of our Section web site as well.

REPORT FROM NIOSH APRIL 10, 2003 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS STANDARDS FOR RESPIRATORY DEVICES USED TO PROTECT WORKERS IN HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTS – MULTIFUNCTION PAPR PROJECT

Reference Docket # NIOSH 008, NIOSH Docket Office, Cincinnati, OH 45226

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducted a Public Meeting with the University of Maryland to investigate stakeholder issues regarding powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) standards. NIOSH respirator protective device standards are published in 42 CFR Part 84. Information is being solicited by NIOSH for a new, comprehensive standard for multifunction powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs). Presentations were given from researchers, a few respirator manufacturers, and representatives from mining, labor, and industry. The hearing was conducted April 10, 2003 at the Marriott Key Bridge.

NIOSH is currently collecting information for personal devices that protect vision, hearing, and head protection along with respiratory protection. This type of device is called "multifunction." The NIOSH project goal is to develop test standards for certifying these multifunction PAPRs. These PAPRs are for possible use in general industry, for emergency responders, and mining among others. The problem identified and information solicited for this public meeting was how to objectively evaluate candidate PAPR equipment.

Information is solicited from the health and safety community for scientifically valid tests in order for PAPRs to be certified by the government as reasonably meeting minimum standards. NIOSH steps in this project are Phase 1) Stakeholder interviews to determine the relative importance of various equipment qualities (vision, communication, and head protection), and define likely work scenarios. Phase 2) Develop test criteria. Phase 3) Follow-up stakeholder interviews. Phase 4) Issue a final report, results and draft standards. The proposed timetable for completion of these activities is two years.

Researchers at the University of Maryland are studying the human factor aspects of multifunction PAPRs. Performance of PAPRs is largely dependent on maintenance of positive pressures inside the respirator facepiece. When breathing rates during harder, more strenuous work activities exceed the flow rates supplied by the PAPR "overbreathing"

occurs and contaminant leakage into the breathing air of the worker can occur, especially with loose-fitting PAPRs. The researchers are studying various methods for the laboratory measurement of comparing breathing air and PAPR airflow during treadmill testing.

A researcher with the SEA Group (U.K.) presented data that showed with heavy workloads, airflow of 300 to 400 liters per minute is necessary to maintain positive pressure for 95% of the population. Current 42 CFR Part 84, Section KK are for a PAPR flow rate not less than 115 lpm for tight-fitting facepiece and 170 lpm for loose-fitting hood or helmet (42 CFR, 84.1152 (b)). This research discussed the possibility that much higher airflow rate than currently used or mandated may be needed for first responders or others who are working at higher metabolic rates. However, a U.K. based respirator manufacturer stated higher flow rates, such as rates greater than the minimum 170 l/min proposed in 42 CFR Part 84 for loose fitting hoods, "can result in several negative effects on the user." The additional power needed requires larger, heavier batteries and more human factor concerns. This manufacturer argued that the minimum flow rate should be reduced to 120 lpm. Another respirator manufacturer stated that continuous airflow is unnecessary because of pressure changes that occur as a result of the wearer's breathing. This manufacturer proposed replacing the current continuous airflow test with a pulsated airflow test, because they had developed a module that monitors and controls airflow.

A representative from the United Mine Workers expressed concern regarding proposals by NIOSH/MSHA to increase the allowable dust concentrations in mines from 2 milligrams per cubic meter of air to 4, and 8 mg/m³ while allowing mine operators to use PAPRs to meet the dust requirement in place of ventilation or other engineering controls. A consultant for the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association discussed that respirators, when needed in mines, must be designed to provide miners with maximum acceptability.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

DOT OSH Manager Vacancy: a GS-0018-14/15 level position in Washington, DC. Please see <http://jsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/ftva.asp?OPMControl=IM0362>

Certified Industrial Hygienist, GS-13: The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Overseas Building Operations, Office of Safety, Health and Environmental Management has an opening for a GS-13 Industrial Hygienist who is certified in comprehensive practice. Environmental knowledge and experience is desirable. The successful candidate will be responsible for conducting special studies and providing technical support and training at overseas posts concerning industrial hygiene and environmental concerns. Overseas travel of 10-20% is expected. Visit the OPM website (www.usajobs.opm.gov) or call (919) 790-2864 for more information and application requirements when the job is announced, probably within the next month. Monitor the OPM website for opening/closing dates.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP

The 2003 section membership list is in the "scrubbing" process as you may know and is nearing completion. The revised list will be available on our web site in June, and a directory in PDF file format will be made available to members as well. In event you want to renew your membership or obtain a membership form for someone to join our section, please visit our web site on print off a copy of an application—and use it!

Aegir

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- Indoor Air Quality
- OSHA Compliance
- EPA Compliance

Akva

Akva means water in Esperanto

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